THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BEYOND

AHMED • GLEASON • MacKAY • THOMPSON • WELLS • ZIGLAR
BAGLEY • DOWLING • FORNÉS • GÓMEZ • MEDINA • PICHELLI

MARVEL

BEYOND
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

PETER PARKER has just been through hell. A sinister war and the most harrowing fight of his life has left Peter very scathed and left Peter's best friend since college, **HARRY OSBORN**, very dead. Peter's gone through intense situations before but has always bounced back. He'll do it again this time, right?

BEN REILLY has the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a **SPIDER**, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "**SPIDER-SENSE**"!

After the tragic death of his **Uncle Ben**, Ben Reilly understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN BEYOND

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #75-76
Zeb Wells/Writer
Patrick Gleason/Artist
Marcio Menyz/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2021: SPIDER-MAN/VENOM
Zeb Wells/Writer
Patrick Gleason/Artist
Alejandro Sánchez/Color Artist
Patrick Gleason & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

"JANINE"
Zeb Wells/Writer
Ivan Fiorelli/Artist
Dee Cunniffe/Color Artist

"KAFKA"
Zeb Wells/Writer
Ivan Fiorelli/Artist
Edgar Delgado/Color Artist

"LOVE AND MONSTERS"
Kelly Thompson/Writer
Travel Foreman/Artist
Jim Campbell/Color Artist

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #77-78
Kelly Thompson/Writer
Sara Pichelli with **Jim Towe** (#78)/Artists
Nolan Woodard with **Rachelle Rosenberg** (#78) /Color Artists
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #78.BEY
Jed MacKay/Writer
Eleonora Carlini/Artist
Federico Blee/Color Artist
Leinil Francis Yu & **Sunny Gho**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #79-80
Cody Ziglar/Writer
Michael Dowling/Artist
Jesus Aburtov with **Erick Arciniega** (#80) /Color Artists
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez** /Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #80.BEY
Cody Ziglar/Writer
Ivan Fiorelli with **Carlos Gómez** & **Paco Medina**/Artists
Rachelle Rosenberg /Color Artist
Mark Bagley, John Dell & **Brian Reber**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #81
Saladin Ahmed/Writer
Carlos Gómez/Artist
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Romulo Fajardo Jr.**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #82
Saladin Ahmed/Writer
Jorge Fornés/Artist
Dan Brown/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Romulo Fajardo Jr.**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #83
Patrick Gleason /Writer & Artist
Morry Hollowell & **Nathan Fairbairn**/Color Artists
Arthur Adams & **Romulo Fajardo Jr.**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #84-85
Cody Ziglar/Writer
Paco Medina/Penciler
Paco Medina (#84-85), **Walden Wong** (#85), **Wayne Faucher** (#85), **Andrew Hennessy** (#85), **Victor Olazaba** (#85) & **Roberto Poggi** (#85)/Inkers
Espen Grundetjern /Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #86, #88
Zeb Wells/Writer
Michael Dowling/Artist
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #87
Jed MacKay/Writer
Carlos Gómez/Artist
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND
Jed MacKay/Writer
C.F. Villa/Artist
Erick Arciniega /Color Artist
J. Scott Campbell & **Sabine Rich**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #88.BEY
Geoffrey Thorne/Writer
Jan Bazaldua & **Jim Towe**/Artists
Jim Campbell/Color Artist
Nick Bradshaw & **Rachelle Rosenberg**/Cover Art
Danny Khazem/Editor

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #89-90
Patrick Gleason/Writer
Mark Bagley/Penciler
Andrew Hennessy (#89-90), **John Dell** (#89-90), **Andy Owens** (#90), **Wayne Faucher** (#90) & **Victor Olazaba** (#90)/Inkers
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Jim Campbell**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #91
Kelly Thompson/Writer
Sara Pichelli & **Fran Galán**/Artists
Brian Reber/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #92
Kelly Thompson/Plot
Jed MacKay/Script
Fran Galán, Sara Pichelli & **Zé Carlos**/Artists
Brian Reber/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #92.BEY
Jed MacKay, Cody Ziglar & **Zeb Wells**/Writers
Luigi Zagaria, Bruno Oliveira, Fran Galán & **Mark Bagley** with **Wayne Faucher**/Artists
Espen Grundetjern, Carlos Lopez, Jim Campbell, Jim Charalampidis & **Morry Hollowell**/Color Artists
Mark Bagley & **Brian Reber**/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #93
Zeb Wells/Writer
Patrick Gleason/Artist
Brian Reber/Color Artist

"DAYS"
Sara Pichelli/Artist
Carlos Lopez/Color Artist

"WEEKS"
Mark Bagley & **Tim Townsend**/Artists
Carlos Lopez/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & **Alejandro Sánchez**/Cover Art

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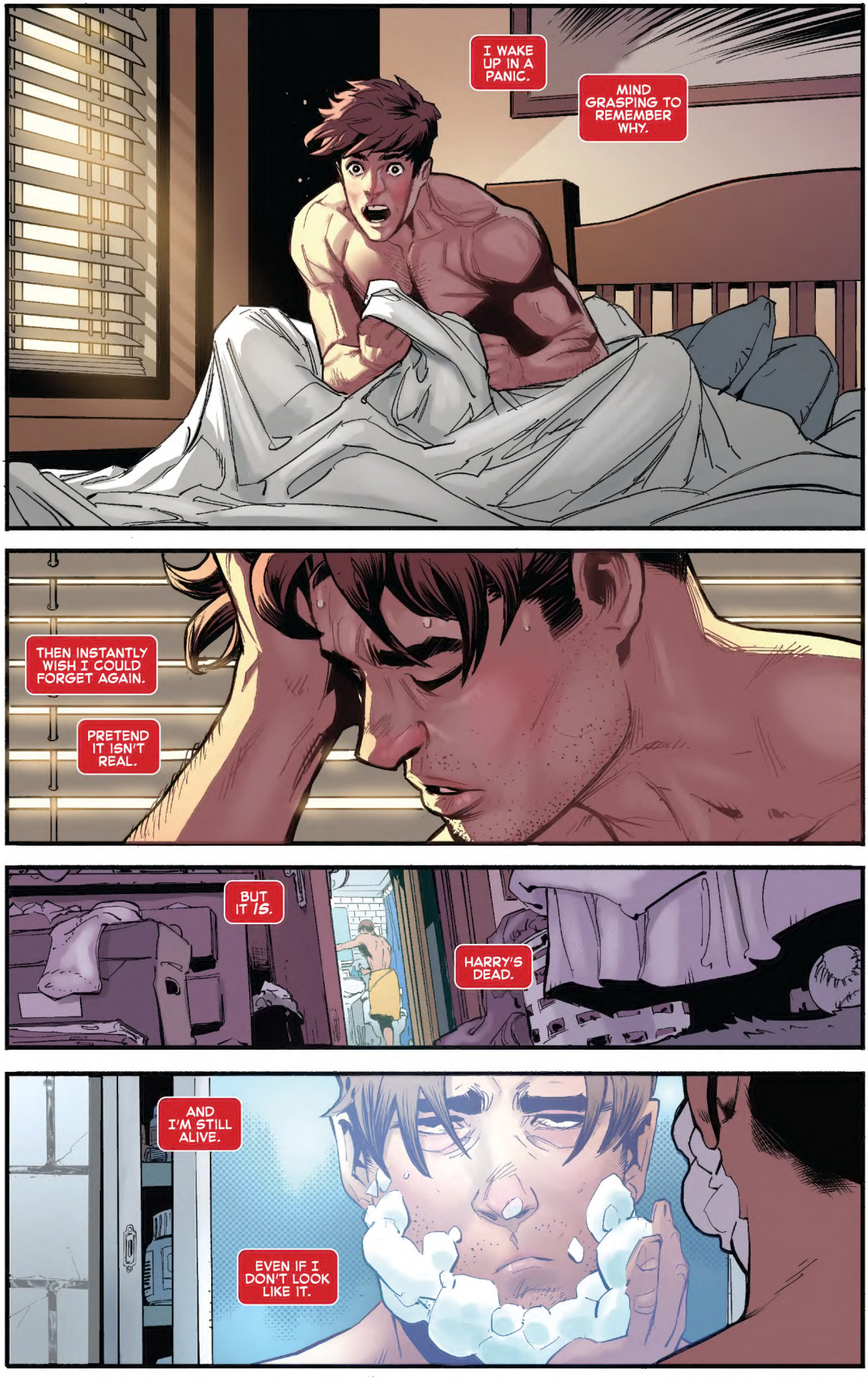
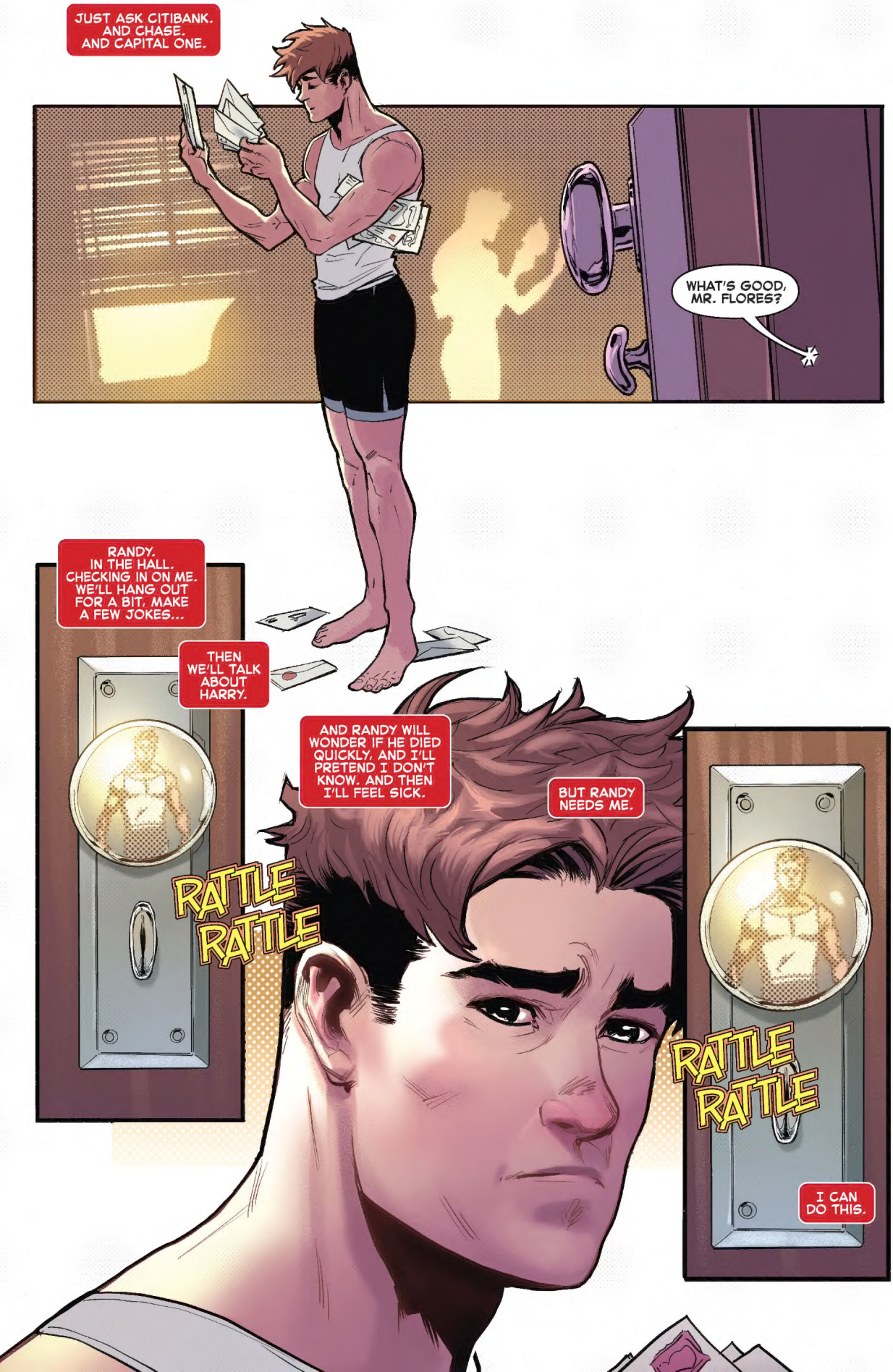
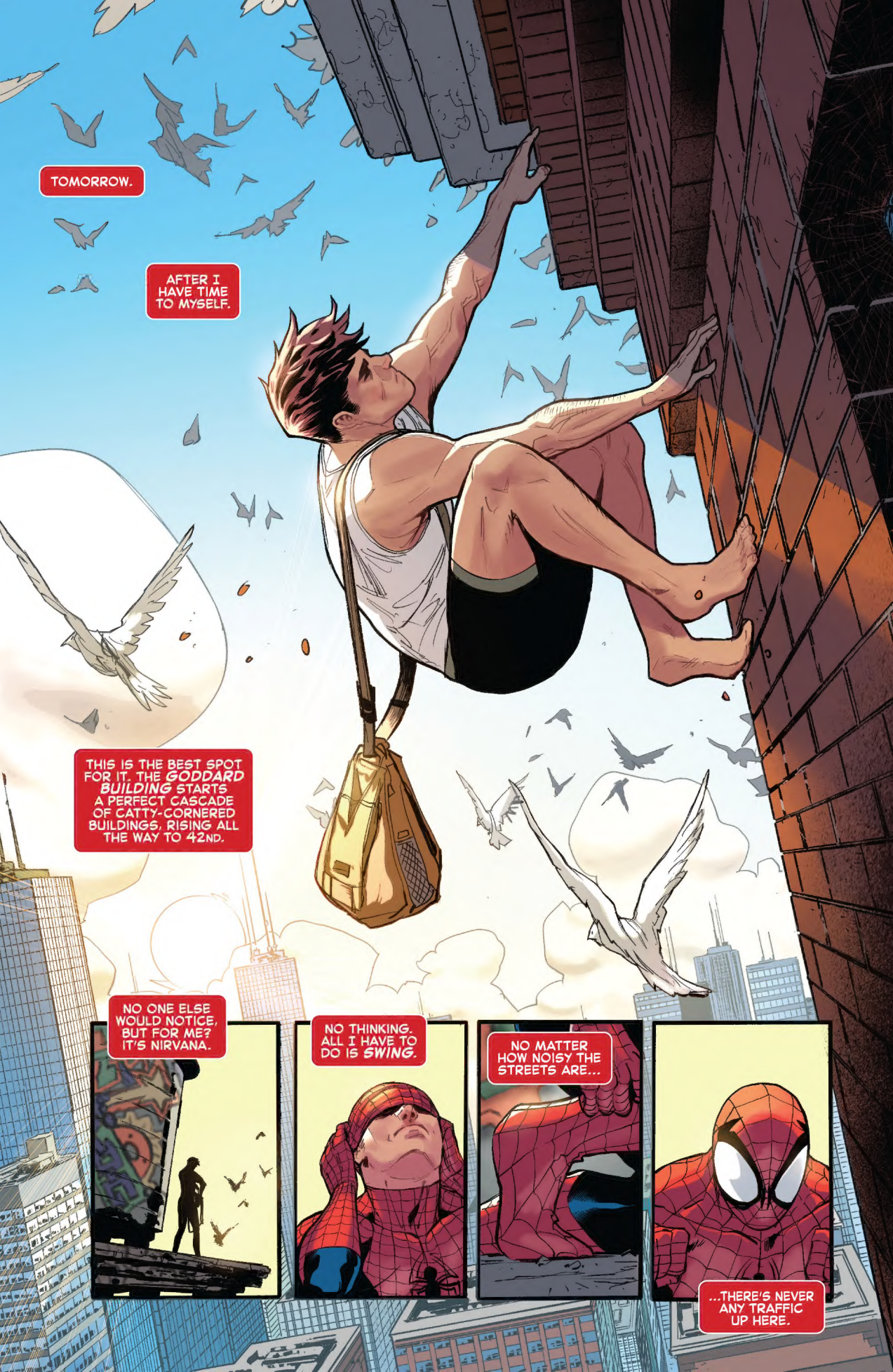
YOU WEREN'T EVEN SIX AND LESS THAN FOUR BLOCKS FROM HOME WHEN SHE NOTICED.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT GUM, PETER?
YOU'D TAKEN IT FROM MR. LUIZ'S BODEGA. HADN'T KNOWN WHAT YOU WERE DOING, EXACTLY.
BUT SOMETHING HAD TOLD YOU IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT EASY.
SHE MARCHED YOU BACK TO HIS STORE TO APOLOGIZE.
DIGGING THROUGH HER LITTLE COIN PURSE SO YOU COULD HAND MR. LUIZ THE NICKEL YOURSELF.
SHE WAS SO UPSET SHE DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU LITTER.

LATER THAT NIGHT, UNCLE BEN ASKED TO SEE YOU.
TOOK A LOT FOR YOU TO HEAD DOWN THOSE STAIRS, KNOWING WHAT IT WAS ABOUT.
YOU KNOW, WE ALL GOTTA DECIDE WHO WE ARE WHEN NO ONE'S *WATCHING*.
WHEN THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TO SEE IF YOU DO THE RIGHT OR WRONG THING.
IT HELPS ME TO REMEMBER, AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ALL HAVE TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR. AND THE GUY LOOKING BACK AT YOU?
THERE'S NO HIDING FROM *HIM*.


I WAKE UP IN A PANIC.
MIND GRASPING TO REMEMBER WHY.
THEN INSTANTLY WISH I COULD FORGET AGAIN.
PRETEND IT ISN'T REAL.
BUT IT *IS*.
HARRY'S DEAD.
AND I'M STILL ALIVE.
EVEN IF I DON'T LOOK LIKE IT.


JUST ASK CITIBANK. AND CHASE. AND CAPITAL ONE.
WHAT'S GOOD, MR. FLORES?
RANDY. IN THE HALL. CHECKING IN ON ME. WE'LL HANG OUT FOR A BIT, MAKE A FEW JOKES...
THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT HARRY.
AND RANDY WILL WONDER IF HE DIED QUICKLY, AND I'LL PRETEND I DON'T KNOW. AND THEN I'LL FEEL SICK.
BUT RANDY NEEDS ME.
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE
I CAN DO THIS.


TOMORROW.
AFTER I HAVE TIME TO MYSELF.
THIS IS THE BEST SPOT FOR IT. THE GODDARD BUILDING STARTS A PERFECT CASCADE OF CATTY-CORNERED BUILDINGS, RISING ALL THE WAY TO 42ND.
NO ONE ELSE WOULD NOTICE, BUT FOR ME? IT'S NIRVANA.
NO THINKING. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SWING.
NO MATTER HOW NOISY THE STREETS ARE...
...THERE'S NEVER ANY TRAFFIC UP HERE.

THWIP

EXCUSE ME...

WHO THE #$%& IS THAT?

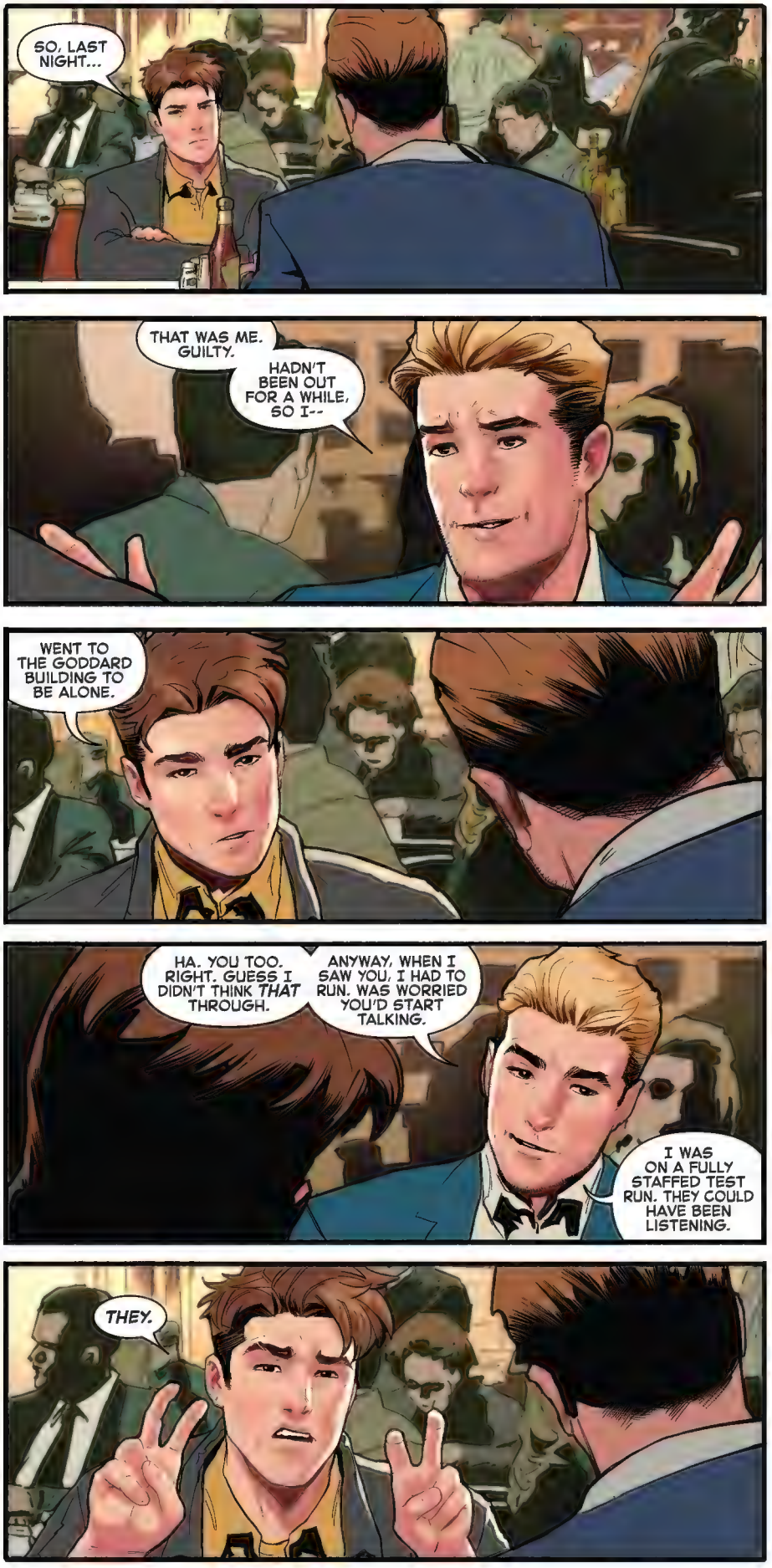
HEY, SPIDER-VERSE! WHAT GIVES?!
YOU GUYS SHOULD AT LEAST CHECK IN, YOU KNOW?
NO, BUD... YOU DON'T GET TO JUST RUN AWAY.
SHHHH.

SHHH?!
THWIP
THWIP
YOU DON'T SHHH SPIDER-MAN!
THWANG
THWANG
WEBS DON'T STICK TO YOUR SUIT...
THAT'S CUTE.
THIS WON'T BE.
THWIP
THWIP
HNNNGH!
SMASH

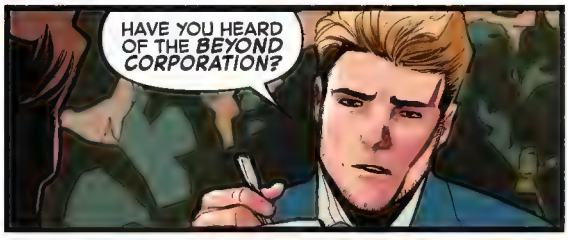
BEEP
DEPLOY SPINNERET.
STAY.
STAY?! YOU CONDESCENDING--
WHAT'S THIS?
GYAHH!
PLEASE RELAX.
HEY! WHERE'D YOU GO?!
YOU WILL BE RELEASED IN ONE HOUR. PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE.
HELLO?

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.
The Next Morning.
I GOT HELD UP! I'M SORRY!
COME ON, DERRICK, I NEED THIS--IF I'M OFF THE GROUP PROJECT, I CAN'T PASS.
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE SHOWED UP ONE OF THE TWELVE TIMES YOU SAID YOU WOULD. WE HAD TO REPLACE YOU, DUDE.
ALSO, YOU LOOK LIKE HELL.
I WAS OUT MUCH LATER THAN I WANTED LAST NIGHT.
WE MIGHT BE ZEROING IN ON YOUR PROBLEM.
IT WASN'T FUN STUFF, KEL. I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT.
MAYBE YOU CAN GET AN EXTENSION. HAVE YOU HAD AN ACCIDENT, BEEN INJURED, TRAUMATIZED, OR LOST SOMEONE?
YES.
ALL OF THOSE.
IF THAT'S TRUE, TALK TO DR. CONNORS. MAYBE HE'LL GIVE YOU A PASS.
IF THAT'S TRUE.
HELLO, PETER.

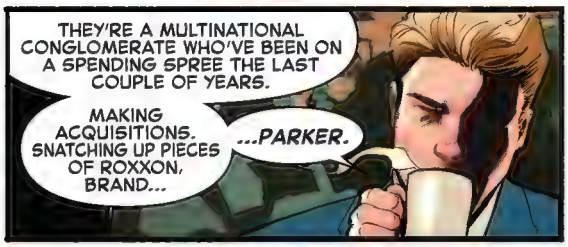
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
BEN?
YEAH.
GOT A SEC?


SO, LAST NIGHT...
THAT WAS ME. GUILTY.
HADN'T BEEN OUT FOR A WHILE, SO I--
WENT TO THE GODDARD BUILDING TO BE ALONE.
HA. YOU TOO. RIGHT. GUESS I DIDN'T THINK THAT THROUGH.
ANYWAY, WHEN I SAW YOU, I HAD TO RUN. WAS WORRIED YOU'D START TALKING.
I WAS ON A FULLY STAFFED TEST RUN. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN LISTENING.
THEY.

IS THAT HOW I LOOK WHEN I'M ABOUT TO GIVE SOMEONE BAD NEWS?

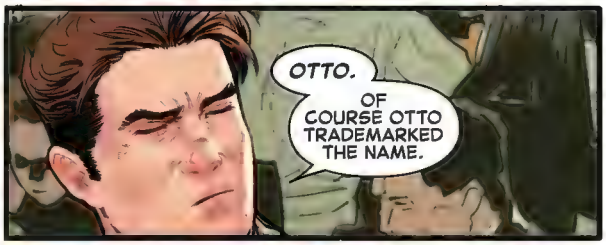

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE BEYOND CORPORATION?

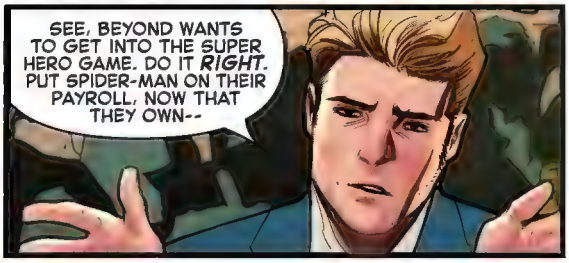
NO.
MAYBE?
I WAS A CRAP BUSINESSMAN.


THEY'RE A MULTINATIONAL CONGLOMERATE WHO'VE BEEN ON A SPENDING SPREE THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.
MAKING ACQUISITIONS. SNATCHING UP PIECES OF ROXXON, BRAND...
...PARKER.

PARKER INDUSTRIES? THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO BUY.
PETE SOLD IT ALL BACK IN ASM #790. --NL

NOTHING TOO IMPORTANT, NO. NOTHING DANGEROUS...
JUST SOME OLD TRADEMARKS...
LIKE THE ONE FOR THE NAME AND LIKENESS OF SPIDER-MAN. DID YOU FORGET YOU FILED?
Uh-oh. --NL

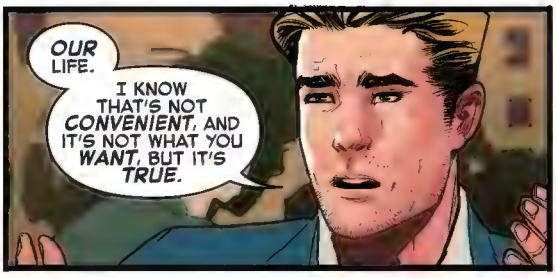

OTTO.
OF COURSE OTTO TRADEMARKED THE NAME.


SEE, BEYOND WANTS TO GET INTO THE SUPER HERO GAME. DO IT RIGHT. PUT SPIDER-MAN ON THEIR PAYROLL, NOW THAT THEY OWN--

THEY DON'T OWN ANYTHING. I NEVER--

DUDE, YOU DO NOT WANT TO DO THAT RIGHT NOW.
I WAS-- UH--NOT STEALING THIS.
LEAVE.
YEP.

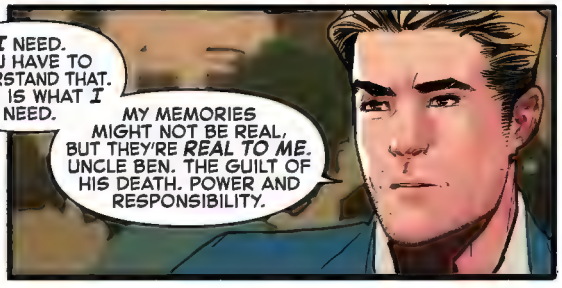
I AM SPIDER-MAN.
YOU CAN'T BUY THAT. IT'S MY LIFE.

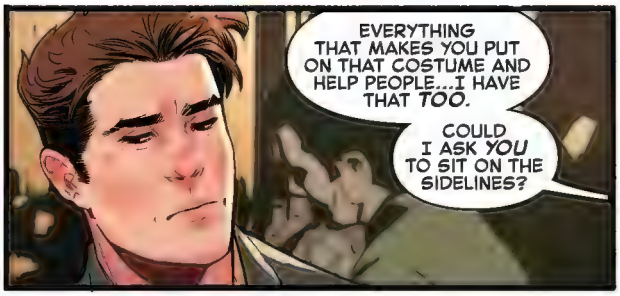

OUR LIFE.
I KNOW THAT'S NOT CONVENIENT, AND IT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT, BUT IT'S TRUE.

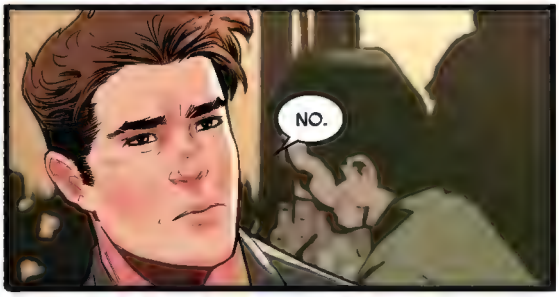
BEN, I--I JUST THOUGHT AFTER YOUR LAST RESURRECTION, YOU'D TAKE IT EASY. GET SOME HELP--

I DID. BEYOND PUT ME BACK TOGETHER. BELIEVED IN ME.
BELIEVED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN DO A LOT OF GOOD WITH SPIDER-MAN.

BUT WHY DO THEY NEED--
I NEED. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT. THIS IS WHAT I NEED.


MY MEMORIES MIGHT NOT BE REAL, BUT THEY'RE REAL TO ME. UNCLE BEN. THE GUILT OF HIS DEATH. POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY.

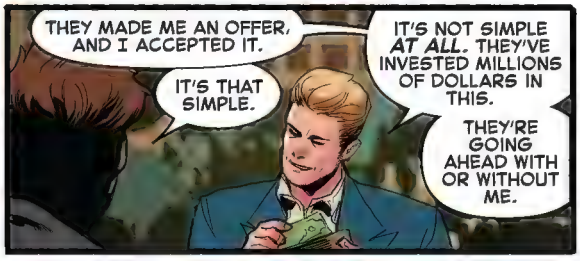

EVERYTHING THAT MAKES YOU PUT ON THAT COSTUME AND HELP PEOPLE...I HAVE THAT TOO.
COULD I ASK YOU TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES?

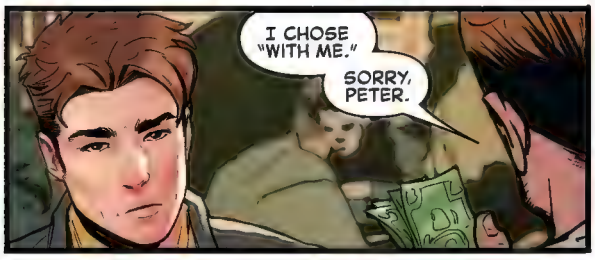

NO.

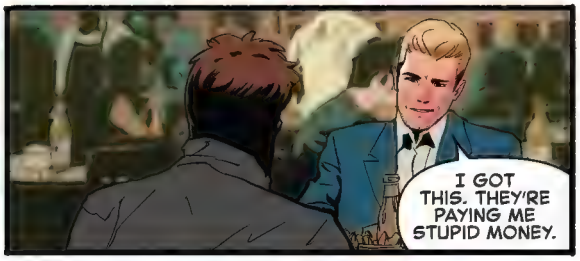
BUT THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO SHARE SPIDER-MAN WITH YOU.

ACTUALLY...
...AND THIS ISN'T FUN TO SAY, BUT I WANT TO BE HONEST...
...I'M NOT ASKING.

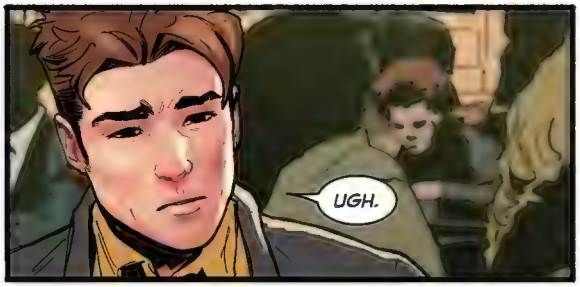
OH.


THEY MADE ME AN OFFER, AND I ACCEPTED IT.
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
IT'S NOT SIMPLE AT ALL. THEY'VE INVESTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THIS.
THEY'RE GOING AHEAD WITH OR WITHOUT ME.

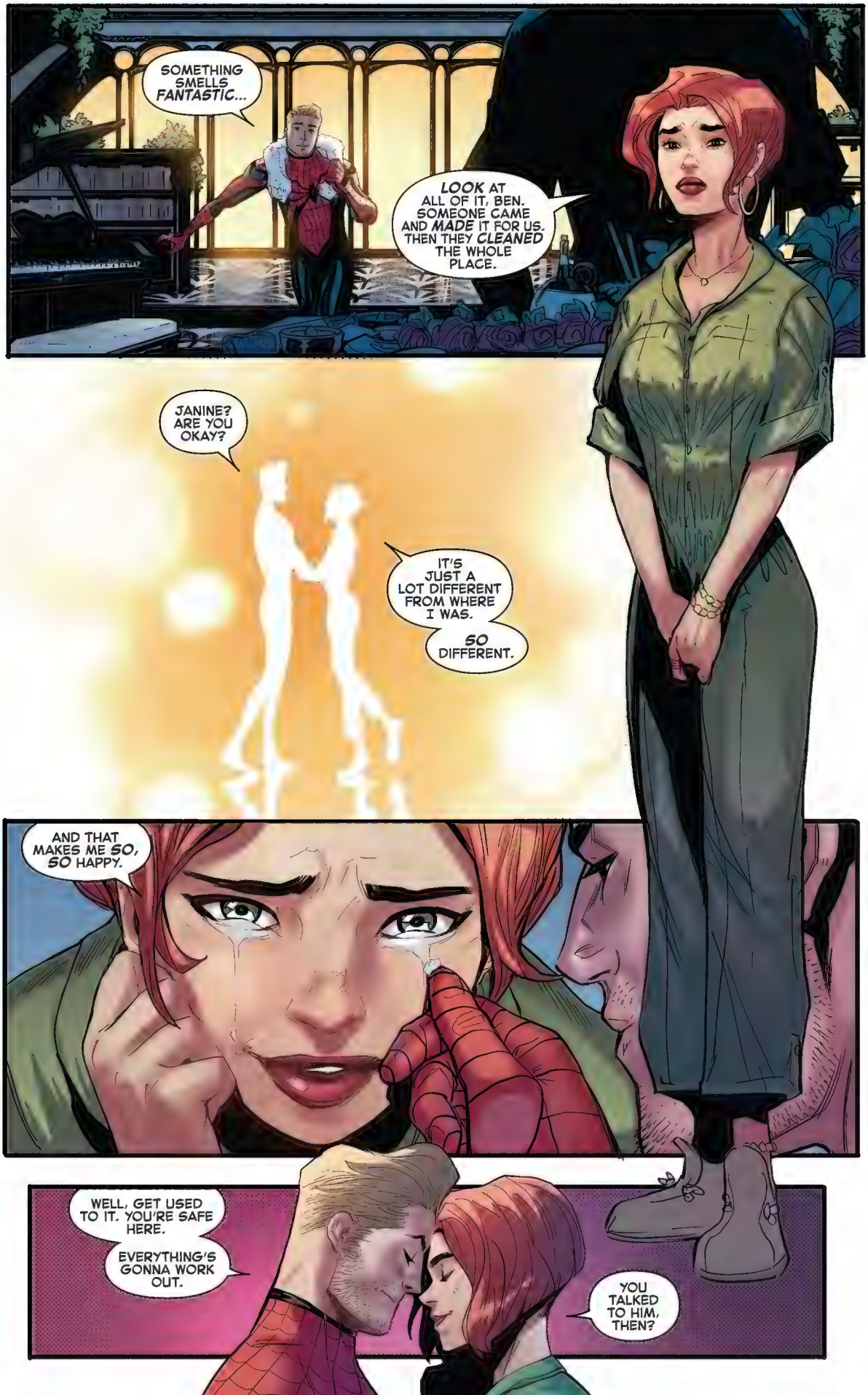

I CHOSE "WITH ME."
SORRY, PETER.


I GOT THIS. THEY'RE PAYING ME STUPID MONEY.

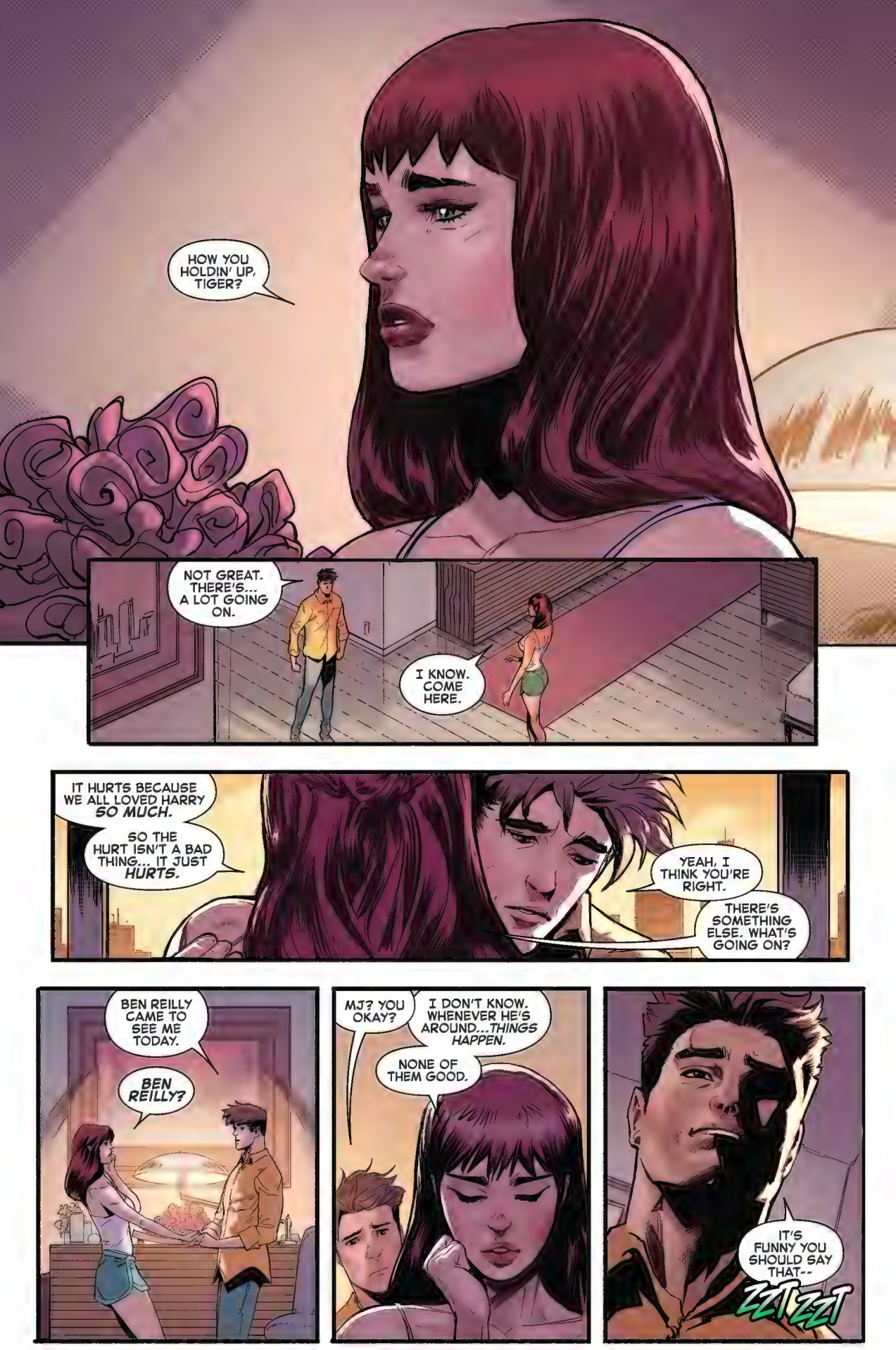
SEE YOU OUT THERE.


UGH.

LOWER EAST SIDE.
BEYOND TOWER.
"HE'S BACK."
"HIS MASK IS OFF."
"THAT'S FINE. LET HIM ENJOY IT."
ALL RIGHT, LANGSTON.
DO YOUR WORST.
VOICE VERIFIED.
HEAT SIGNATURE VERIFIED.
BODY SCENT VERIFIED.
MY FAVORITE.
ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.
WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.


SOMETHING SMELLS *FANTASTIC*...
LOOK AT ALL OF IT, BEN. SOMEONE CAME AND *MADE* IT FOR US. THEN THEY *CLEANED* THE WHOLE PLACE.
JANINE? ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S JUST A LOT DIFFERENT FROM WHERE I WAS.
SO DIFFERENT.
AND THAT MAKES ME *SO*, *SO* HAPPY.
WELL, GET USED TO IT. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA WORK OUT.
YOU TALKED TO HIM, THEN?

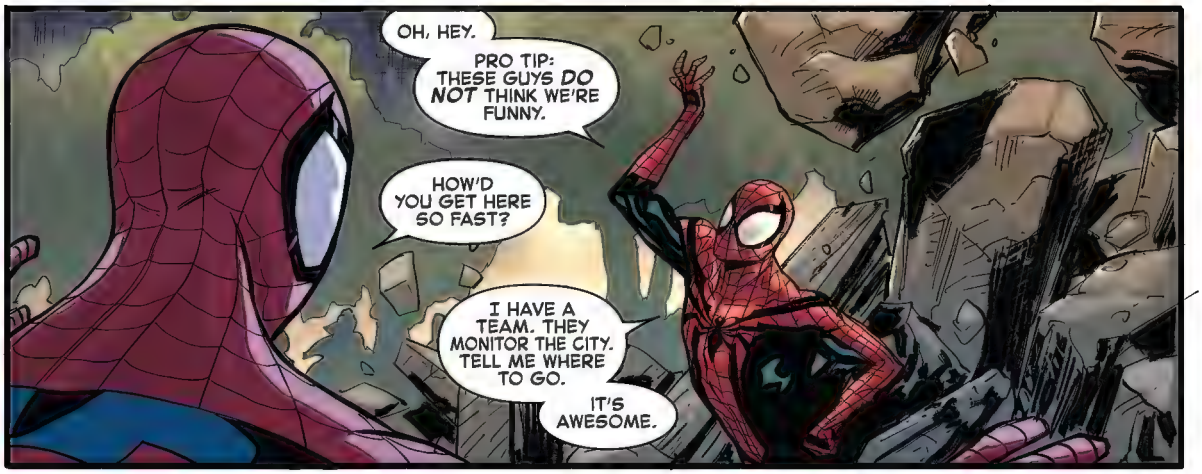
YEP. HE TOOK IT AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED. I THINK--
AH, AH, AH...
LET'S KEEP THE DETAILS TO YOURSELF. THE LESS BEYOND KNOWS, THE BETTER.
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE NO LEGAL WAY OF CONTACTING ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY HAVE GONE BY "SPIDER-MAN" IN THE PAST.
OH, I DIDN'T--
DO YOU HAVE A KEY?
ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES.
I NEED THE BIG GUY.
THE BOB LOOKS FANTASTIC, BY THE WAY.
TIME FOR THERAPY?
NO, CHALMERS NEEDS YOU IN R&D. SOME HAIRY INTEL RUMBLING IN FROM THE FIELD. WE WANNA BUFF YOUR RADIATION SHIELDING BEFORE YOU GO OUT TONIGHT.
YOU HEARD MARCUS. TIME TO WORK.
WISH ME LUCK?
GOOD LUCK, BEN REILLY.


HOW YOU HOLDIN' UP, TIGER?
NOT GREAT. THERE'S... A LOT GOING ON.
I KNOW. COME HERE.
IT HURTS BECAUSE WE ALL LOVED HARRY SO MUCH.
SO THE HURT ISN'T A BAD THING... IT JUST HURTS.
YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. WHAT'S GOING ON?
BEN REILLY CAME TO SEE ME TODAY.
BEN REILLY?
MJ? YOU OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW. WHENEVER HE'S AROUND...THINGS HAPPEN.
NONE OF THEM GOOD.
IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT--
ZZT ZZT

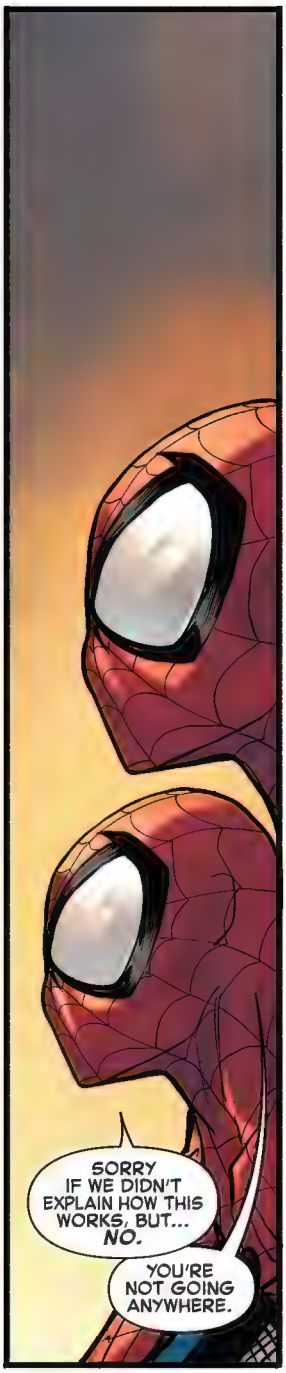
ONE SEC.
K
Kel
Kel: Looks like you may have a good excuse after all.
Explosion at Empire State University
Unless this was you?
SOMETHING'S UP AT EMPIRE STATE.
AND YOU HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT.
THEY MIGHT NEED HELP.
PETER... AT SOME POINT, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO STOP FOR FIVE MINUTES AND PROCESS EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
I GUESS.
BUT NOT TODAY.
SEE YOU SOON.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.
LOOK HARDER, #$%&%HEADS!
KA-BOOM
I'M TELLING YOU IT'S NOT HERE.
YOU GOT BAD INFORMATION.
YOU GOT BAD EYES, X-RAY! GET BACK IN THERE!
THE U-FOES!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL HERE. WE SUPER HEROES HAVE BEEN TALKING AND DECIDED SOMEONE HAD TO TELL YOU: YOU GUYS SMELL.
LIKE, THERE'S A DISTINCT ODOR. AND IT'S NOT GOOD.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE ONE OF YOU IS MADE OF NOXIOUS GAS.
THAT WASN'T FUNNY THE FIRST TIME WE HEARD IT.
FIRST TIME?
HNNNNNGH!
YOU'RE SENSITIVE ABOUT YOUR BODY ODOR. GOT IT.


OH, HEY.
PRO TIP: THESE GUYS DO NOT THINK WE'RE FUNNY.
HOW'D YOU GET HERE SO FAST?
I HAVE A TEAM. THEY MONITOR THE CITY. TELL ME WHERE TO GO.
IT'S AWESOME.

#$%&. THIS. WE'RE OVER TIME. LET'S GO.
NOW?
YOU WANT TO GET PAID, DON'T YOU?


SORRY IF WE DIDN'T EXPLAIN HOW THIS WORKS, BUT... NO.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

NOW THAT'S HILARIOUS.
IRONCLAD. BE CRUEL.

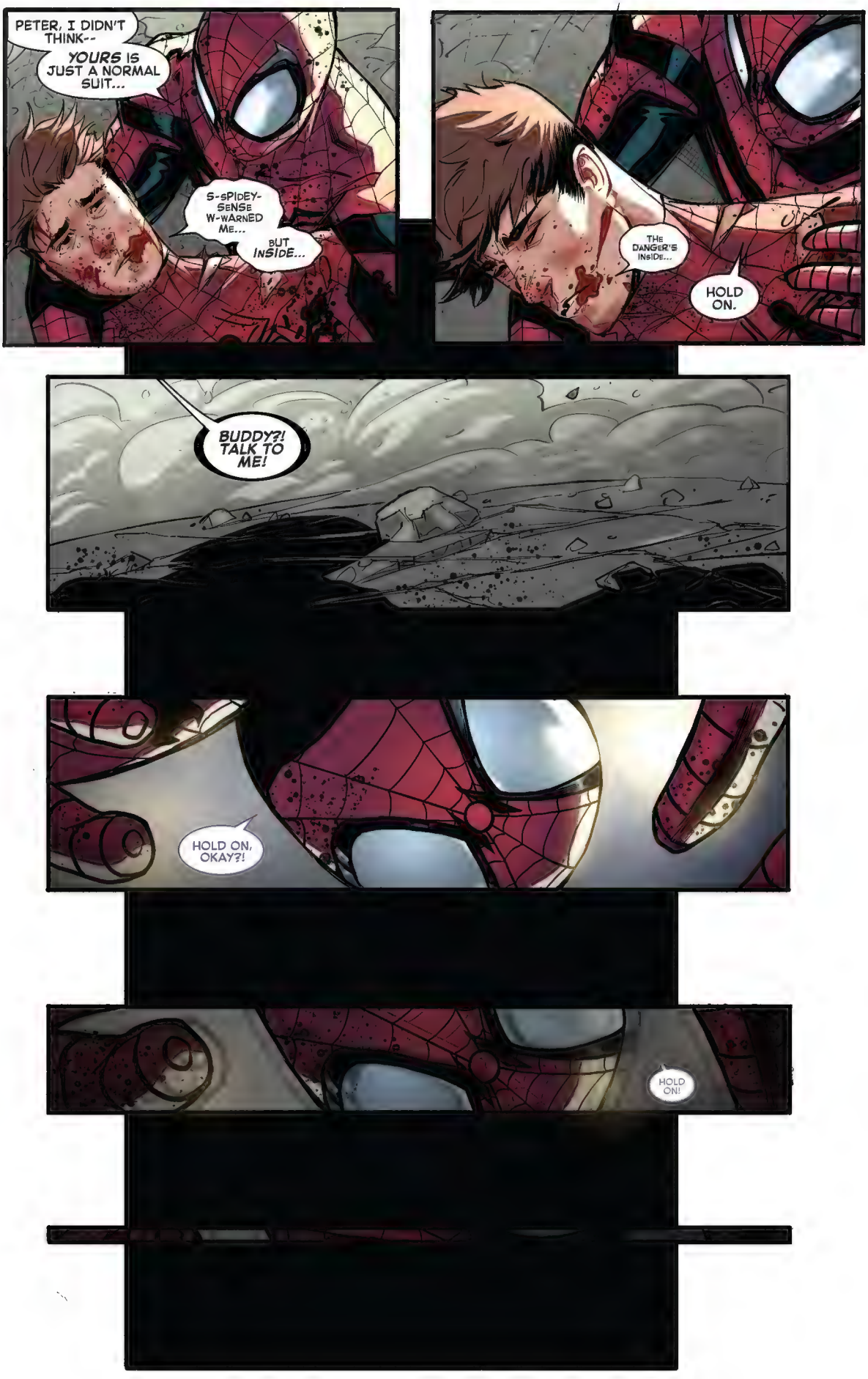
SO THAT'S A "NO" ON SURRENDERING?
I'M SHOCKED-- YOU ALL SEEM SO COOL.

HEY, LOOK ALIVE!
BOOM!
WHOA!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
THE KINETIC-SENSITIVE FOAM IN MY COSTUME LOCKS UNDER IMPACT. PRETTY NEAT, HUH?
IT'S OKAY.

YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?
NO!
THEN GET UP!
OKAY, I LIKE JOKING AROUND AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY--
UNLESS THE NEXT GUY IS ME.
...
SURE. WHAT I'M SAYING IS IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS. HIT THESE GUYS HARD, FAST, AND TOGETHER.
LOVE IT.
I GO FIRST. THEN YOU.
DON'T YOU TALK DOWN TO--
LOOK OUT, IDIOTS!
GYAAAHH!
YOU ALL REALLY NEED TO WATCH HOW YOU TALK TO EACH OTHER.
KRAK
THNK
IT'S TOXIC.

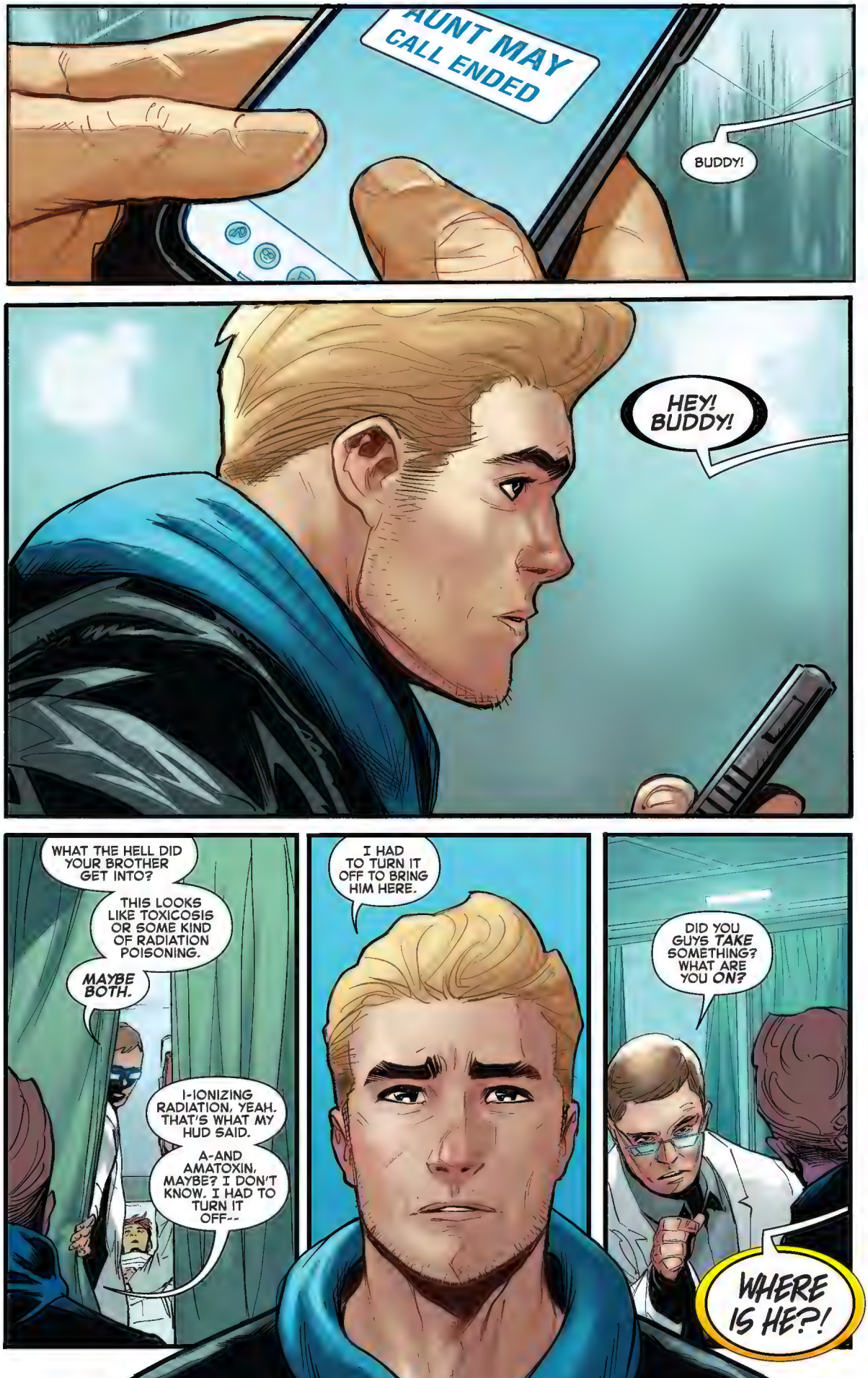
IT'S TIME! FINISH THIS!
YOU HEARD HIM.
CAFF
WHAT IS THAT?
HAHA! YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS!
SHZZZZ!
#$%&. SUIT SAYS THIS GAS IS RADIO-VOLATILE.
THAT MEANS--
I KNOW WHAT IT--
KA-
BOOM

DID YOU SEE THAT #$%&! HA HA--
GURK.
DID YOU SEE MY LEAD-LINED GLOVES, X-RAY?
NOT TO MENTION MY RADIATION-SHIELDING AND AIR-SCRUBBING MICRO-MESH.
Y-YEAH. THOSE WOULD HAVE BEEN... PRETTY COOL.
OH NO.
BLLEARRGH!
I THINK WE MADE OUR POINT.
THAT'S IT. WE'RE GONE.
MOVE!


PETER, I DIDN'T THINK--
YOURS IS JUST A NORMAL SUIT...
S-SPIDEY-SENSE W-WARNED ME...
BUT INSIDE...
THE DANGER'S INSIDE...
HOLD ON.
BUDDY?! TALK TO ME!
HOLD ON, OKAY?!
HOLD ON!

ARTHUR ADAMS
6.26
2021

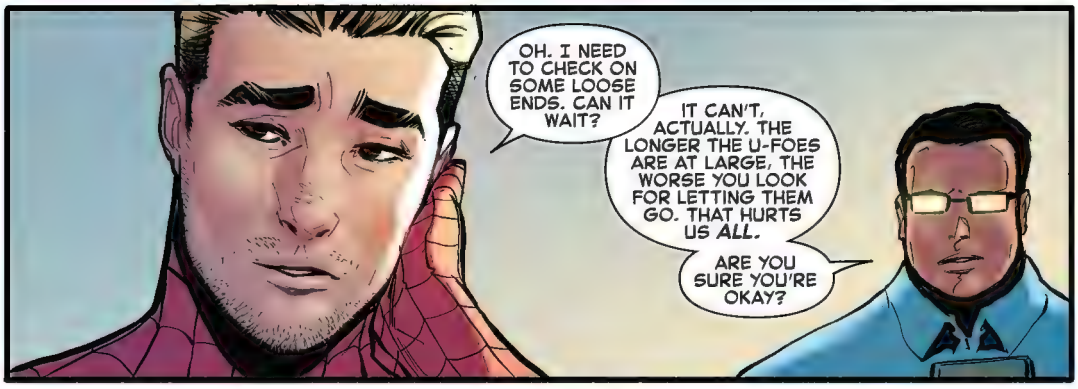
RING RING
HELLO?
UH, HI. MAY? THIS IS...
THIS IS PETER'S...
UM, THIS IS PETER.
I'M IN THE EMERGENCY WARD OF McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.
BUT--
I'M HURT, OKAY? COME QUICK--
HELLO?
HELLO?!
CLICK
THAT WASN'T PETER.


AUNT MAY
CALL ENDED
BUDDY!
HEY! BUDDY!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOUR BROTHER GET INTO?
THIS LOOKS LIKE TOXICOSIS OR SOME KIND OF RADIATION POISONING.
MAYBE BOTH.
I-IONIZING RADIATION, YEAH. THAT'S WHAT MY HUD SAID.
A-AND AMATOXIN, MAYBE? I DON'T KNOW. I HAD TO TURN IT OFF--
I HAD TO TURN IT OFF TO BRING HIM HERE.
DID YOU GUYS TAKE SOMETHING? WHAT ARE YOU ON?
WHERE IS HE?!

I'M LOOKING FOR PETER PARKER.
ONE MOMENT.
PETER'S IN NO SHAPE TO SEE ANYONE, MA'AM.
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
DON'T TELL ME THAT--HE JUST CALLED ME!
MAYBE YOU TALKED TO HIS BROTHER?
WHAT BROTHER?!
HE'S CONVULSING!
I'M COMING!
NONE OF THESE VITALS MAKE SENSE!
PETER, CAN YOU HEAR ME? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?!

DANGER.
G-GOTTA GO. MOVE.
DANGER!
BUT WHERE...
INSIDE MY BODY...
MY BODY IS THE DANGER. SOMETHING INSIDE--
--TRYING TO KILL ME

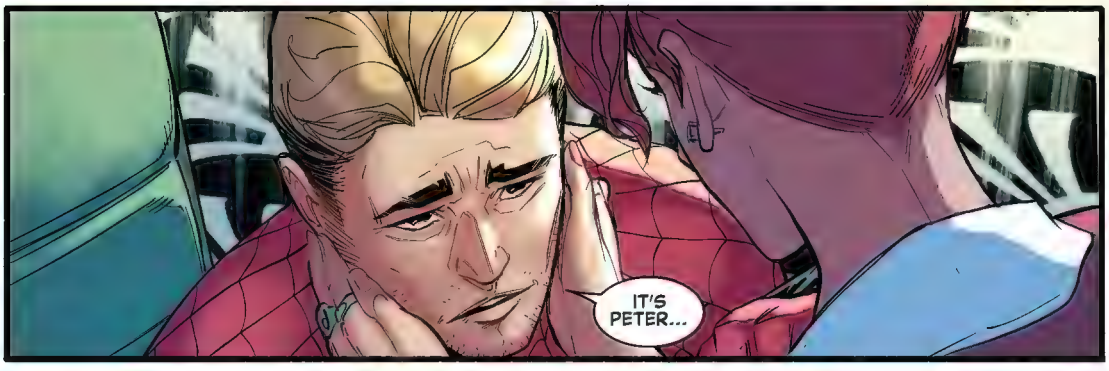
BEYOND TOWER.
HE'S COMING BACK?
HIS UNIFORM IS. I'M ONLY ASSUMING HE'S IN IT.
I HOPE YOU'LL HELP US IMPRESS UPON HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING IN CONTACT.
OH. I--
OKAY.
UH-OH...
MY PARENTS WAITED UP FOR ME. I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE SNUCK IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.
IMPOSSIBLE. LANGSTON MONITORS ALL POINTS OF ENTRY.
NOTED, BUDDY.
THIS ISN'T FUNNY, BEN...
YOU TOOK THE COSTUME OFF AND DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO US.
I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING. THE OTHER GUY HAD A PROBLEM. HARD TO GO INTO WHILE PROTECTING HIS IDENTITY--BUT IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
LET'S LOOK FORWARD. HOWEVER IT HAPPENED, THE U-FOES ESCAPED. AND YOU NEED TO STOP THEM--
--AFTER YOUR CONTRACTUAL REST PERIOD, OF COURSE.

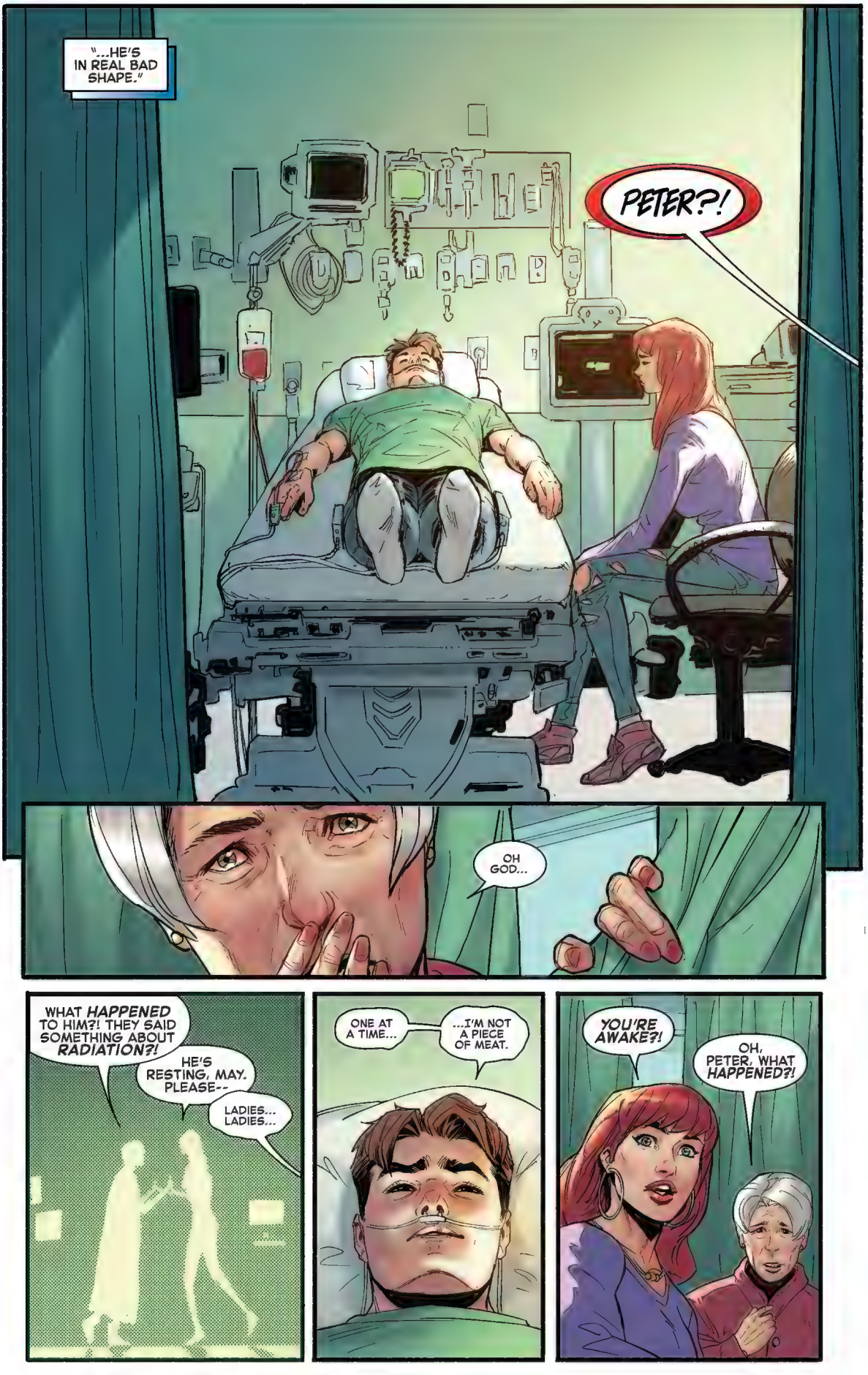

OH. I NEED TO CHECK ON SOME LOOSE ENDS. CAN IT WAIT?
IT CAN'T, ACTUALLY. THE LONGER THE U-FOES ARE AT LARGE, THE WORSE YOU LOOK FOR LETTING THEM GO. THAT HURTS US ALL.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

I'M FINE.
I'LL SCHEDULE YOU AN EXTRA SESSION WITH DR. KAFKA REGARDLESS. WE CAN SNEAK IT IN BEFORE YOU GO OUT TONIGHT.
GET SOME REST!

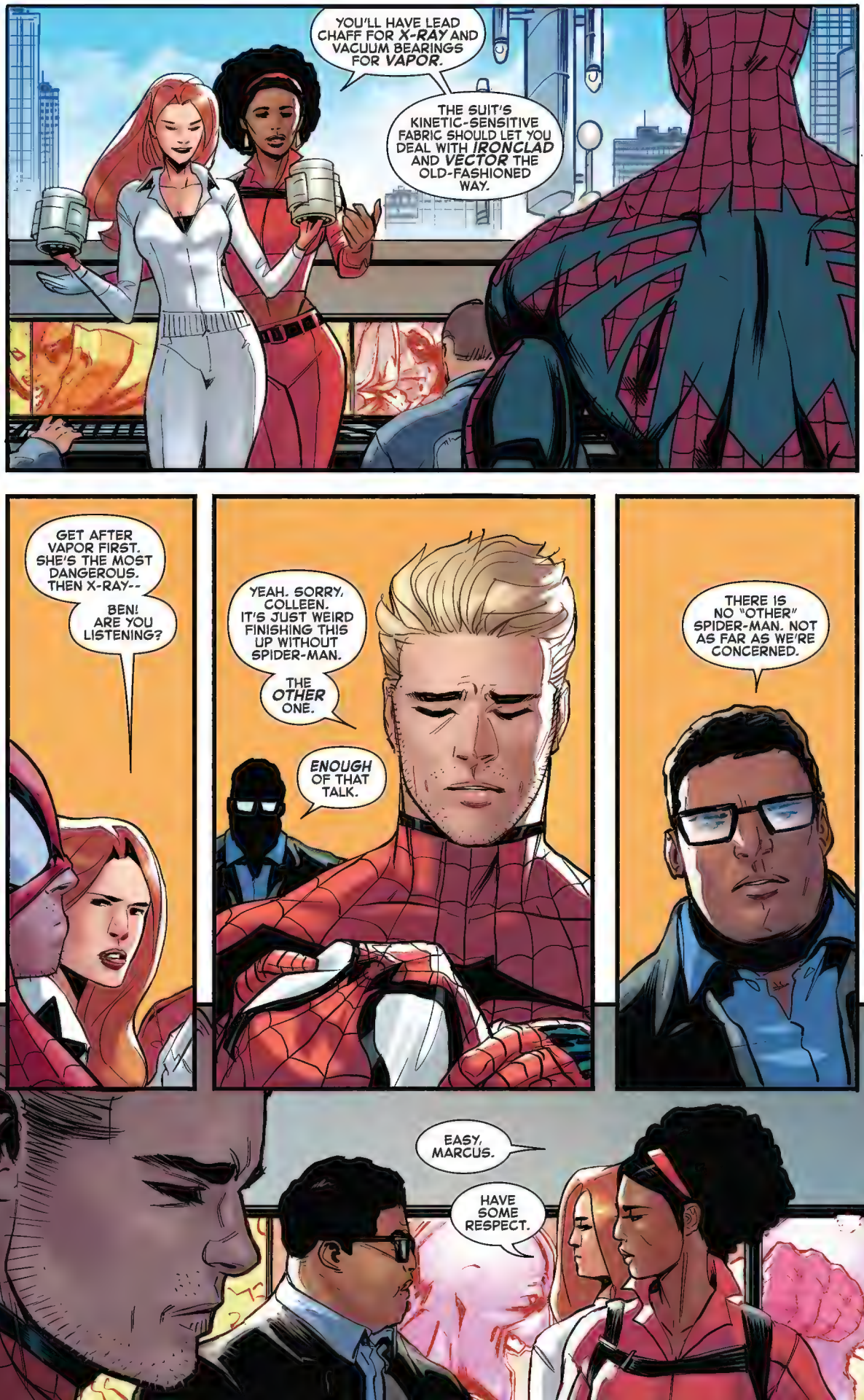
I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE HIM.
JANINE, I...

BEN?
IT'S OKAY, BABY.
WHAT HAPPENED?


IT'S PETER...

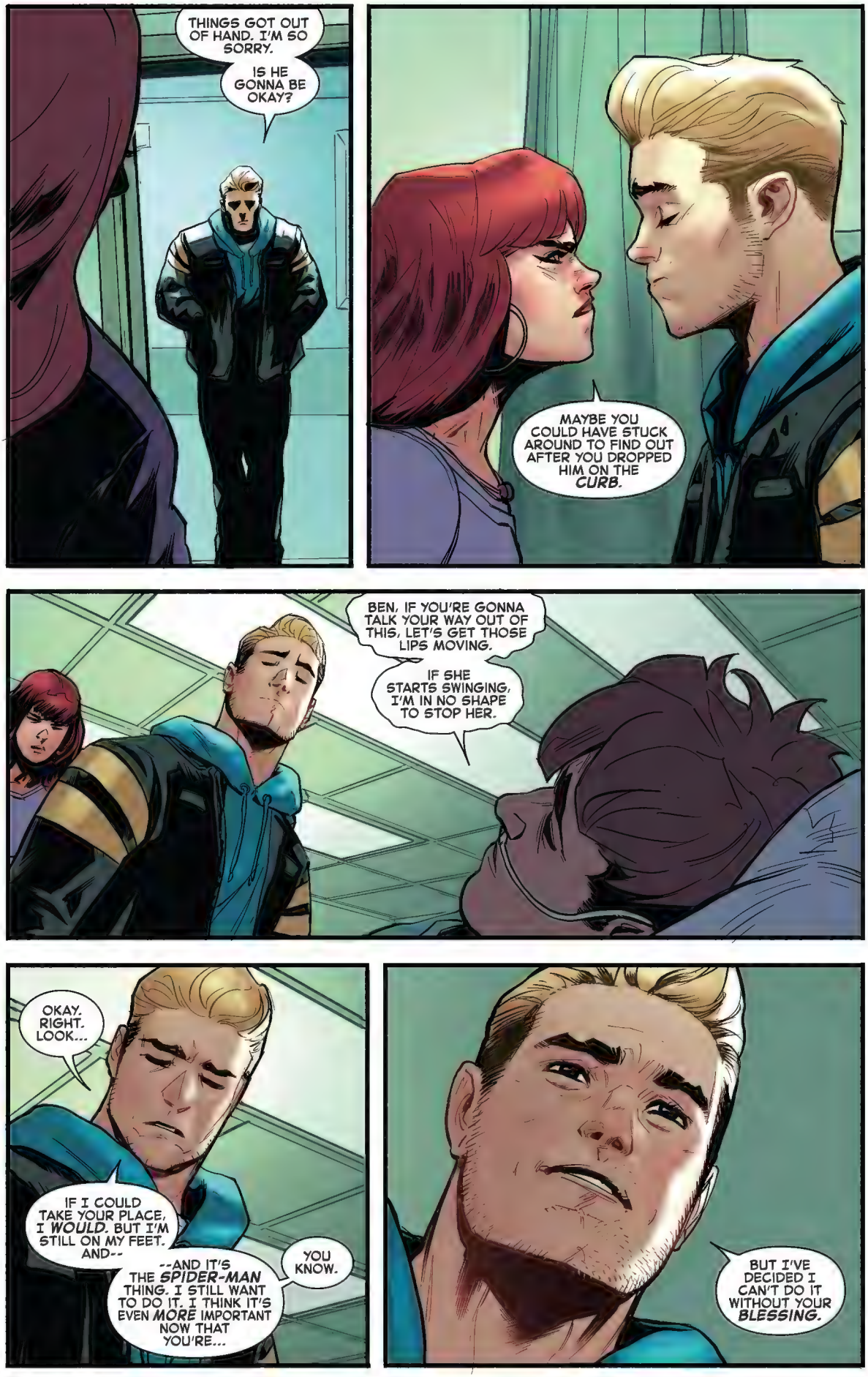

"...HE'S IN REAL BAD SHAPE."
PETER?!
OH GOD...
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?! THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT RADIATION?!
HE'S RESTING, MAY. PLEASE--
LADIES... LADIES...
ONE AT A TIME...
...I'M NOT A PIECE OF MEAT.
YOU'RE AWAKE?!
OH, PETER, WHAT HAPPENED?!

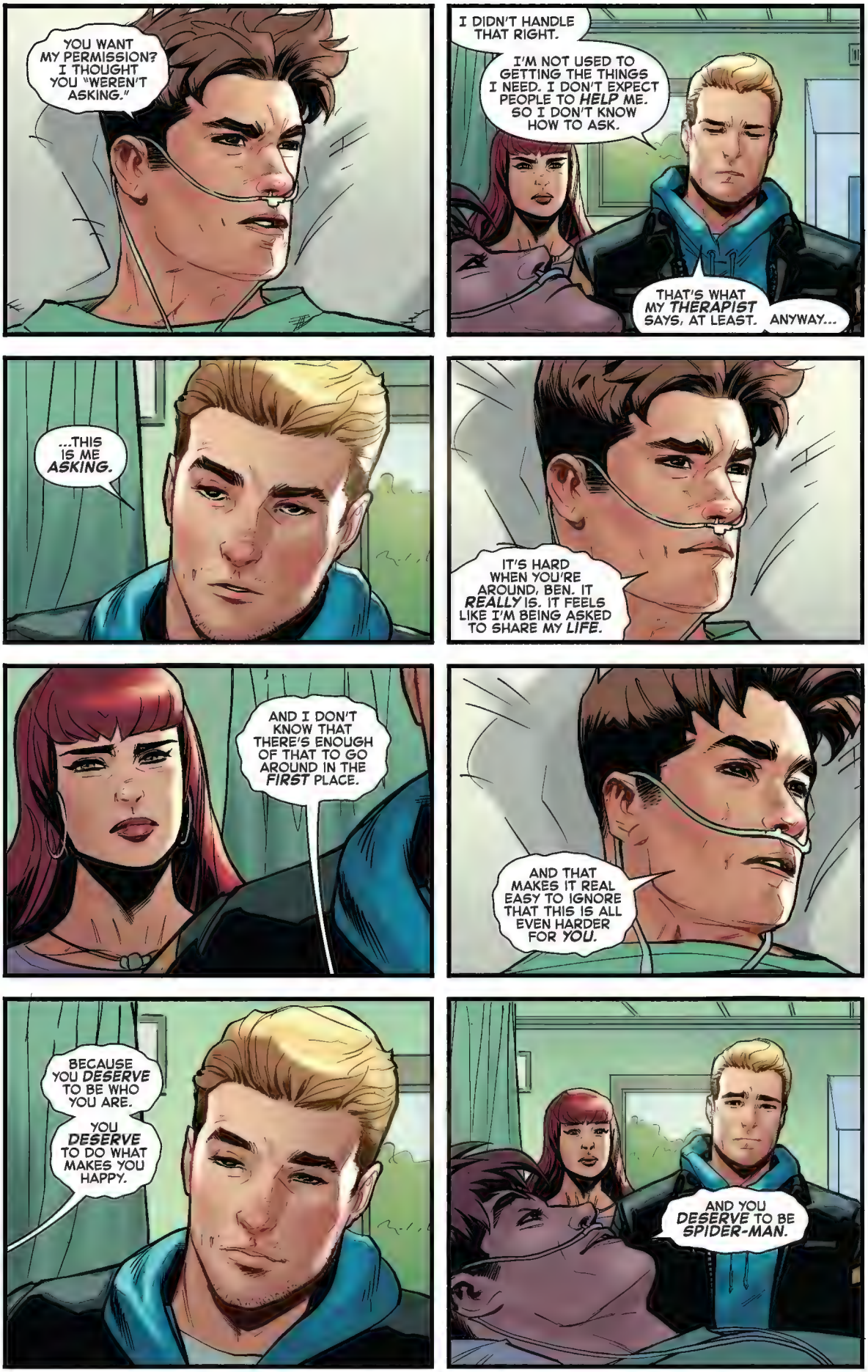
OH...SOME VILLAINS--THE U-FOES, I THINK--ATTACKED EMPIRE STATE.
AND I WAS-- I...
WAS MEETING WITH PROFESSOR CONNORS ABOUT GETTING HIS GRADES UP. IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
HE WAS EXPOSED TO--WELL, DR. BURDICK ISN'T SURE WHAT.
HMPH. "NOT SURE WHAT" ISN'T GOING TO *CUT IT*. WHERE IS THIS "DR. BURDICK"?
I'D LIKE A WORD.
OH... HE'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR.
BUT HE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE TYPE WHO LIKES ANSWERING QUESTIONS.
THEN HE'S *VERY MUCH* NOT GOING TO LIKE HIS *LIFE* FOR THE *FORESEEABLE FUTURE*. NOT UNTIL I'M SATISFIED PETER IS GETTING THE TREATMENT HE *NEEDS*.
YOU! YES, YOU!
DR. BURDICK. *NOW*.


YOU'LL HAVE LEAD CHAFF FOR X-RAY AND VACUUM BEARINGS FOR VAPOR.
THE SUIT'S KINETIC-SENSITIVE FABRIC SHOULD LET YOU DEAL WITH IRONCLAD AND VECTOR THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
GET AFTER VAPOR FIRST. SHE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS. THEN X-RAY--
BEN! ARE YOU LISTENING?
YEAH. SORRY, COLLEEN. IT'S JUST WEIRD FINISHING THIS UP WITHOUT SPIDER-MAN.
THE OTHER ONE.
ENOUGH OF THAT TALK.
THERE IS NO "OTHER" SPIDER-MAN. NOT AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED.
EASY, MARCUS.
HAVE SOME RESPECT.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
GIVE ME AN HOUR.
AN HOUR?! THIS IS MISSION LAUNCH... YOU CAN'T LEAVE.
ONE HOUR!
THAT WAS... UNEXPECTED.

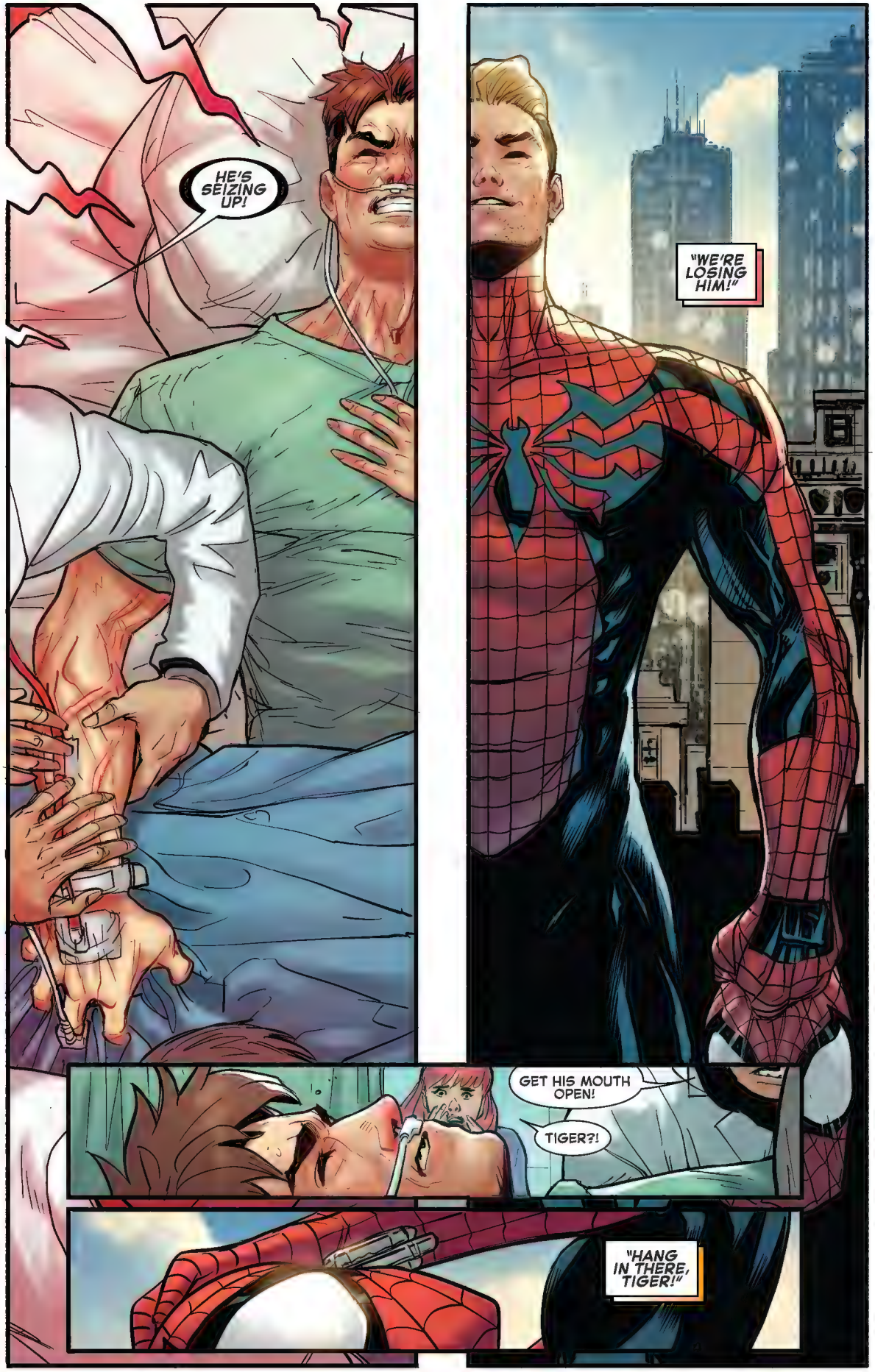
AS I TOLD YOUR AUNT-- BETWEEN STUNNING PERSONAL ATTACKS-- WE'RE STILL RUNNING TESTS... BUT YOU'RE CONSCIOUS. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
IT MEANS YOUR ORGANS ARE WORKING. PUTTING UP A FIGHT. WHEN THE TESTS COME BACK, WE'LL HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM SOME HELP.
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?
HE'S DOING IT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW, BUT HE'S STABLE. HE MUST BE HALF-OX.
CLOSE...
I'LL BE BACK. THE RADIOLOGIST WAS HOLDING UP YOUR RESULTS, SO I SENT YOUR AUNT IN HIS DIRECTION.
BETTER MAKE SURE HE'S STILL ALIVE.
HA.
...
PETER.
OH, DON'T DO THAT. IT DOESN'T SOUND THAT BAD.
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY...
...GOT A SECOND?
YOU.
MJ...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!


THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND. I'M SO SORRY.
IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?
MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE STUCK AROUND TO FIND OUT AFTER YOU DROPPED HIM ON THE CURB.
BEN, IF YOU'RE GONNA TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS, LET'S GET THOSE LIPS MOVING.
IF SHE STARTS SWINGING, I'M IN NO SHAPE TO STOP HER.
OKAY. RIGHT. LOOK...
IF I COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE, I WOULD. BUT I'M STILL ON MY FEET. AND--
--AND IT'S THE SPIDER-MAN THING. I STILL WANT TO DO IT. I THINK IT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAT YOU'RE...
YOU KNOW.
BUT I'VE DECIDED I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR BLESSING.


YOU WANT MY PERMISSION? I THOUGHT YOU "WEREN'T ASKING."
I DIDN'T HANDLE THAT RIGHT.
I'M NOT USED TO GETTING THE THINGS I NEED. I DON'T EXPECT PEOPLE TO HELP ME. SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ASK.
THAT'S WHAT MY THERAPIST SAYS, AT LEAST.
ANYWAY...
...THIS IS ME ASKING.
IT'S HARD WHEN YOU'RE AROUND, BEN. IT REALLY IS. IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING ASKED TO SHARE MY LIFE.
AND I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S ENOUGH OF THAT TO GO AROUND IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND THAT MAKES IT REAL EASY TO IGNORE THAT THIS IS ALL EVEN HARDER FOR YOU.
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE TO BE WHO YOU ARE.
YOU DESERVE TO DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY.
AND YOU DESERVE TO BE SPIDER-MAN.

THANK YOU, PETER.
YOU GET BETTER, OKAY?
I'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME. DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE ON YOUR OWN.
AND LAST THING, BEN...
YEAH?
BE AMAZING.
I'D BE MAD AT YOU RIGHT NOW IF YOU WEREN'T THE SWEETEST MAN ALIVE.

PETER?
JUST WAITING FOR BEN TO GET OUT OF EAR-SHOT.
"WHY?"
BECAUSE I CAN'T FEEL MY BODY.
"HELP!
"SOMEBODY HELP!"


HE'S SEIZING UP!
"WE'RE LOSING HIM!"
GET HIS MOUTH OPEN!
TIGER?!
"HANG IN THERE, TIGER!"

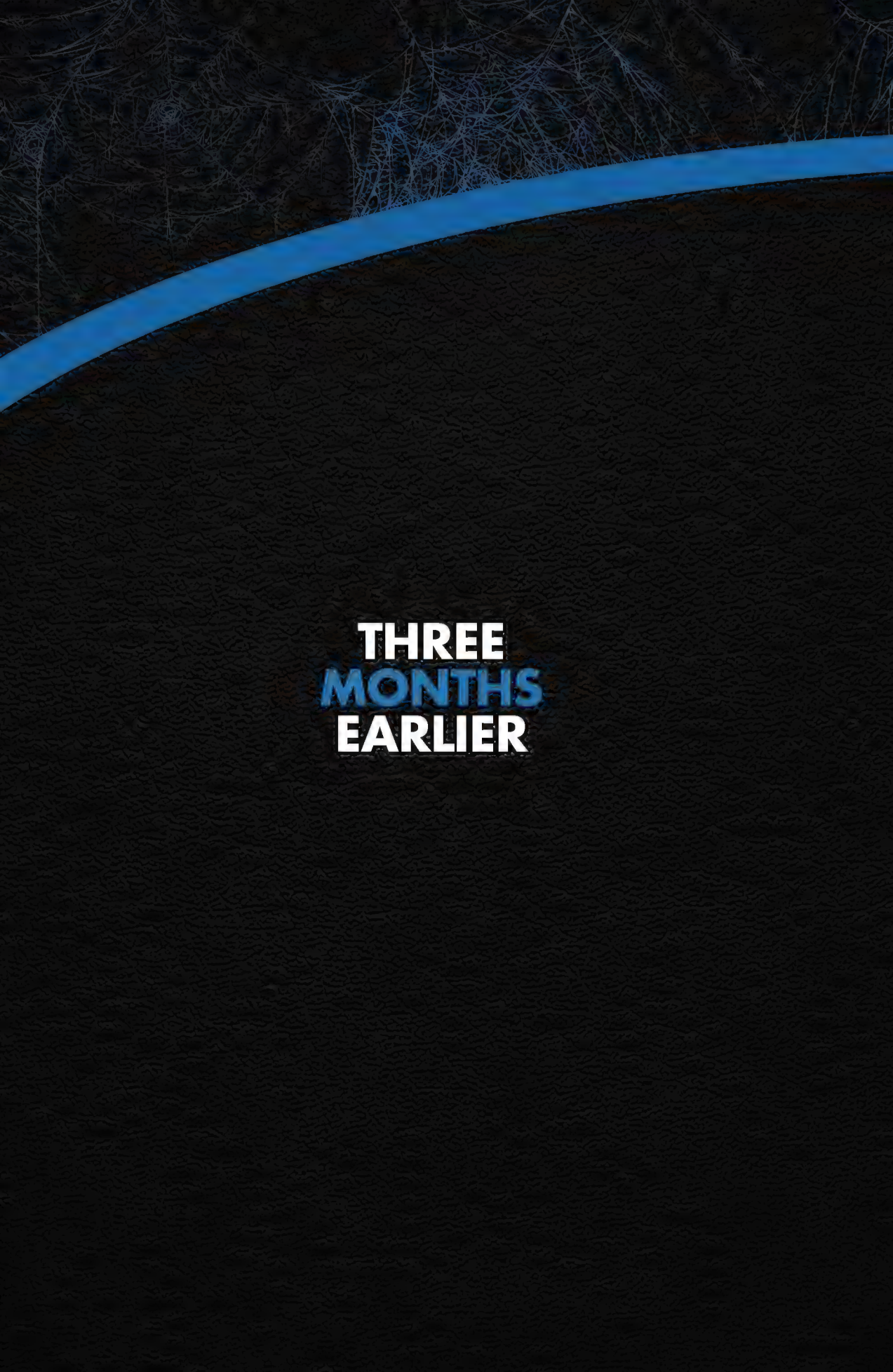
STAY WITH US, BUDDY!
I CAN'T...
...MY BODY IS THE DANGER...
...IT'S TRYING TO SHUT DOWN.
GET HIS MOUTH OPEN!
PETER!
CAN'T LET IT
HE'S SLIPPING INTO A COMA.
GOTTA ESCAPE.
GOTTA... GO... AWAY.

"WE'VE GOT HEAT SIGS ON ALL FOUR. AUDIO UP.
--SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
"YOU'RE CLEAR TO MOVE ON THEM AT YOUR DISCRETION."
HERE?! WE SHOULDN'T BE IN THE COUNTRY. SOMETHING'S WRONG.
THEN TURN INVISIBLE AND PISS OFF, X-RAY. IM TIRED OF LOOKING AT YOU--
SHHH!
HEAR THAT?
CRASH
VACUUM BEARINGS DEPLOYED.
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK

SUCTION GOOD.
AIEEEEE!
VAPOR!
BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU TOO, X-RAY.
HOPE YOU LIKE LEAD CHAFF.
LEAD CHAFF DEPLOYED.
GYARRGHH!
GOOD HIT. RADIOACTIVE BOGEY DOWN.
DIE!
SHIZZARK!
SHORK!
GARK!
WATCH IT, BEN!
I'M GOOD.

S-SPIDER-MAN?
HELL YES,
SPIDER-MAN.

SANCHEZ


THREE
MONTHS
EARLIER

DALLAS, TEXAS.
I FRISKED HIM...
I SWEAR I FRISKED HIM.
HE WAS CLEAN.
BARRY, COME ON, MAN. LOOK AT HIM.
THAT'S BUSHWACKER.
HE DIDN'T SMUGGLE THAT GUN IN HIS PANTS...
EVERYONE STAY CALM. I'M HERE ON BUSINESS.
CAN'T PROMISE YOU WON'T GET HURT IF YOU DO WHAT I SAY, 'CAUSE YOU GETTIN' HURT IS THE JOB.
THE OIL BUSINESS IS ROUGH. YOU KNEW THE RISKS.
CRASH!
WHAT'S THAT SAYING ABOUT TEXAS?

"EVERYTHING IS BIGGER AND WHOA THAT DUDE HAS GUNS FOR HANDS!"

NEW COSTUME.
HOW DO ALL YOU JERKS HAVE TIME TO *SEW?*
I RECOMMEND BUYING A PLANNER.
AND *USING* IT.
FUNNY.
I'M GONNA SHOOT THESE PEOPLE NOW.
CLICK
OH GOD!
HEY, WAIT! *HOLD UP!*

STOP!
BLAM!
THAT WAS PRECIOUS.
AND NOW YOU'RE DEAD.
MAYBE NOT.
THIS SUIT IS MADE OF IMPACT-THICKENING, FOAM-BASED POLYMERS.
AND THEY ACTUALLY WORKED.
GOOD FOR YOU.
REAL, REAL BAD FOR YOU.

WE'LL SEE.
ICH CLK GCH
THOSE GUNS EVER RUN OUT OF BULLETS?
THOSE POLYMERS WORK AT CLOSE RANGE?
OF COURSE THEY DO!
I THINK.
THUNK
BLAM

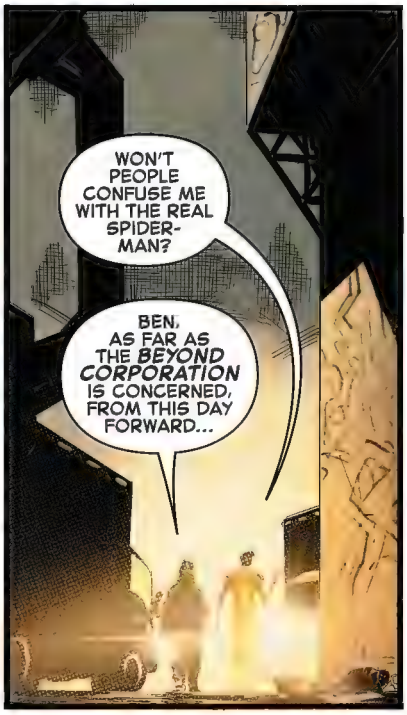
YEAH, SEE?! THEY TOTALLY DO!
OH, DUDE... YOUR ARMS.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE... THAT.
C-CAN WE GO?
YEAH. I THINK? I'M ACTUALLY NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.
HELLO? I'M SERIOUS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
COPY, SPIDER-MAN. I'M ALERTING YOUR SUPPORT TEAM.
THEY'LL COORDINATE WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HAVE THE PERPETRATOR TREATED AND BOOKED.
THEY'RE ARRANGING COUNSELING FOR THE VICTIMS AND HIRING A CONTRACTOR TO PATCH THE WALLS AND REPLACE THE WINDOW.
OH. COOL.
WE'LL SEE YOU BACK AT BASE.

YOU GUYS DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN.
I KNEW YOU'D COME TO YOUR SENSES AFTER A TEST-DRIVE.
OKAY, YEAH. IT FELT GREAT TO HAVE A TEAM BEHIND ME. FINDING THE CRIME, WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, MAKING SURE IT'S DONE RIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY. I'M IN.
THAT'S EXCELLENT NEWS, MR. REILLY.
CALL ME BEN.

OF COURSE.
GET RID OF THIS.
YOU DON'T WANT TO KEEP MY SCARLET SPIDER COSTUME? AS *REFERENCE?*

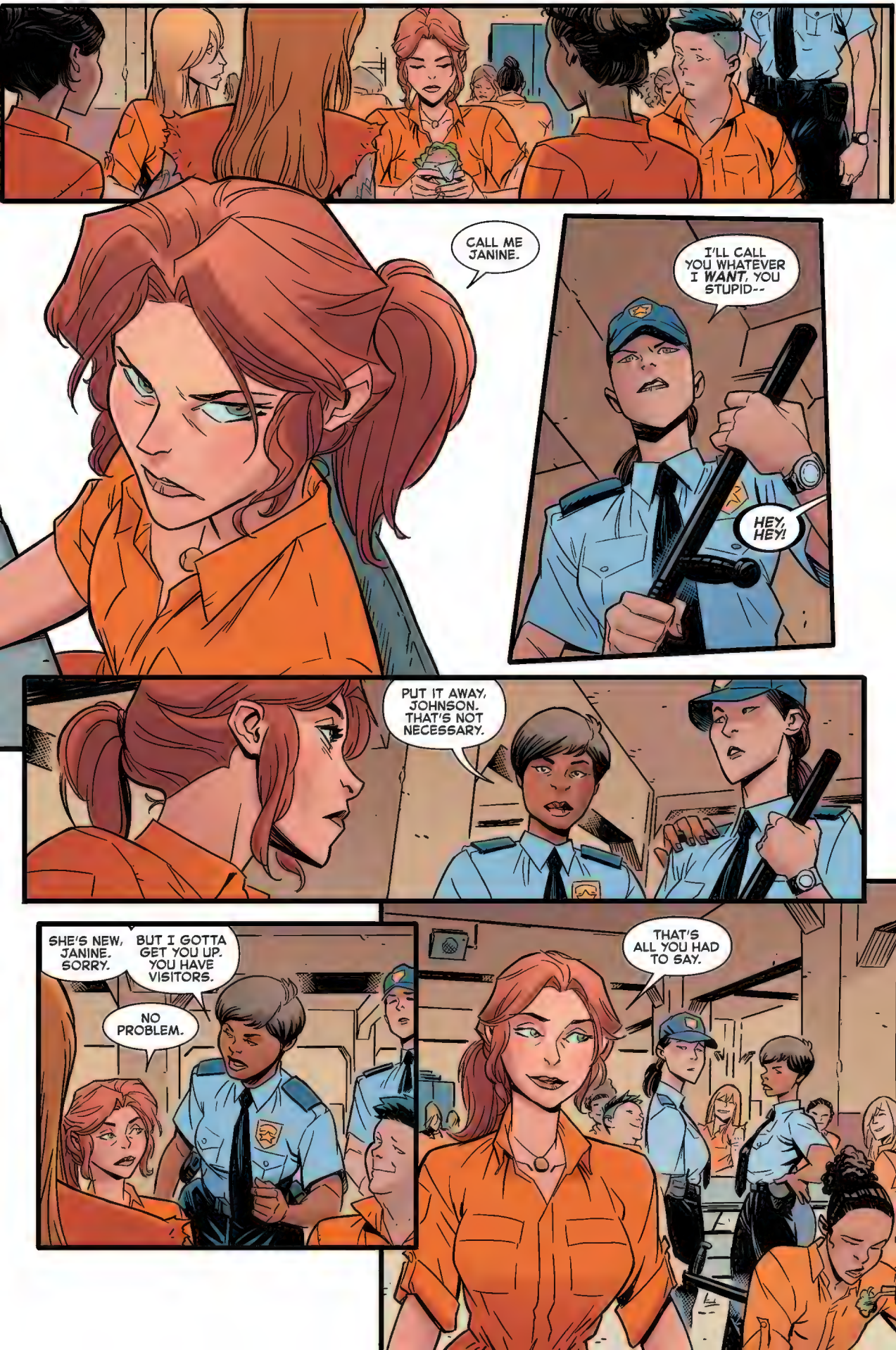
ABSOLUTELY NOT. ONE, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO STOP DRESSING LIKE A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD WITH TOO MUCH BIRTHDAY MONEY.
AND TWO, BECAUSE WE LIKE *THIS* DESIGN.

AND WE WANT *YOU* IN IT.


WON'T PEOPLE CONFUSE ME WITH THE REAL SPIDER-MAN?
BEN, AS FAR AS THE *BEYOND CORPORATION* IS CONCERNED, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

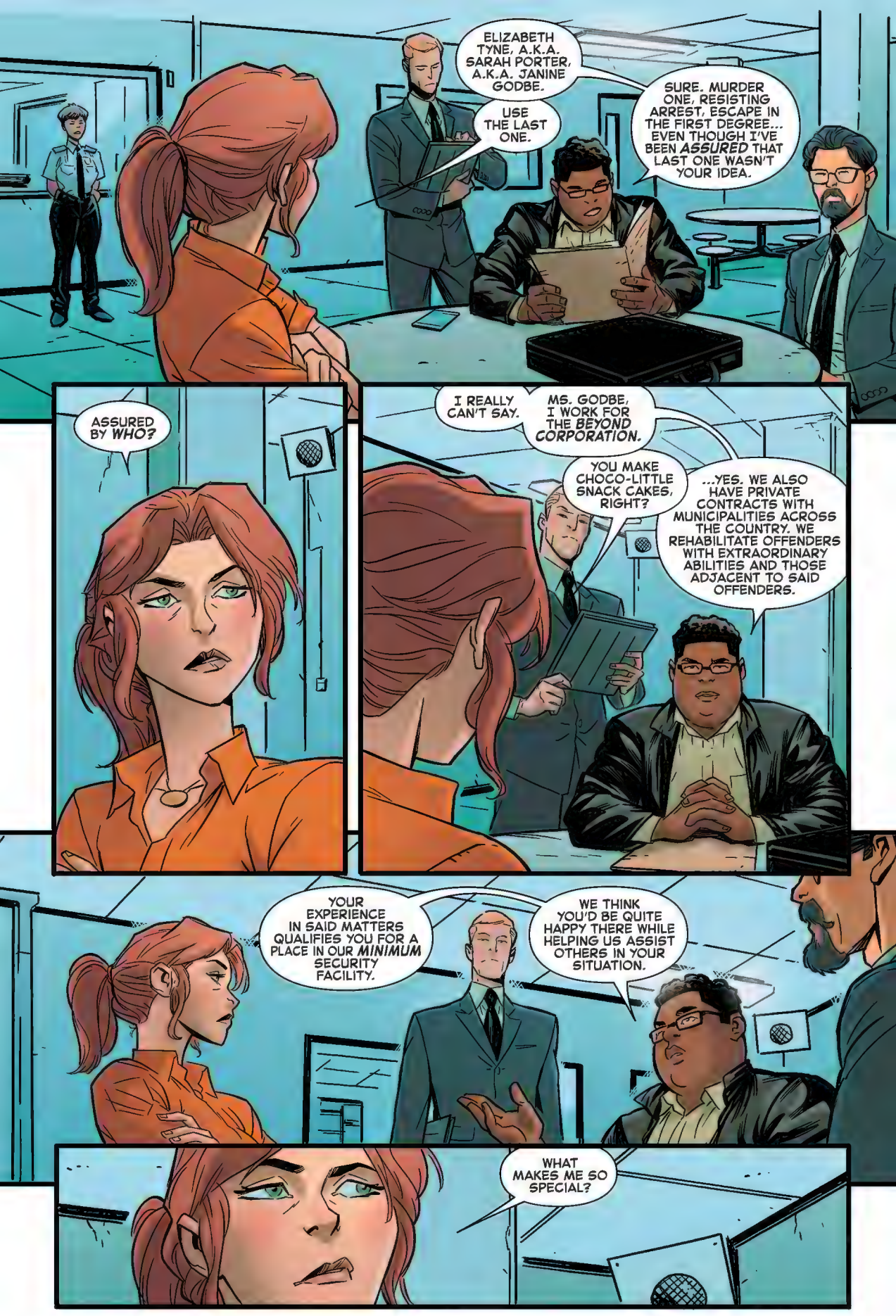
...YOU *ARE* THE REAL SPIDER-MAN.

BEDFORD FALLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
JANINE
WHAT'S GOOD, JANINE?
NOT YOU, KELLY.
HA! YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT.
HERE. TH-THIS IS YOURS.
THANK YOU KINDLY, SARAH.
HOW'S THE SLOP TODAY?
EXCUSE ME...
ELIZABETH TYNE?

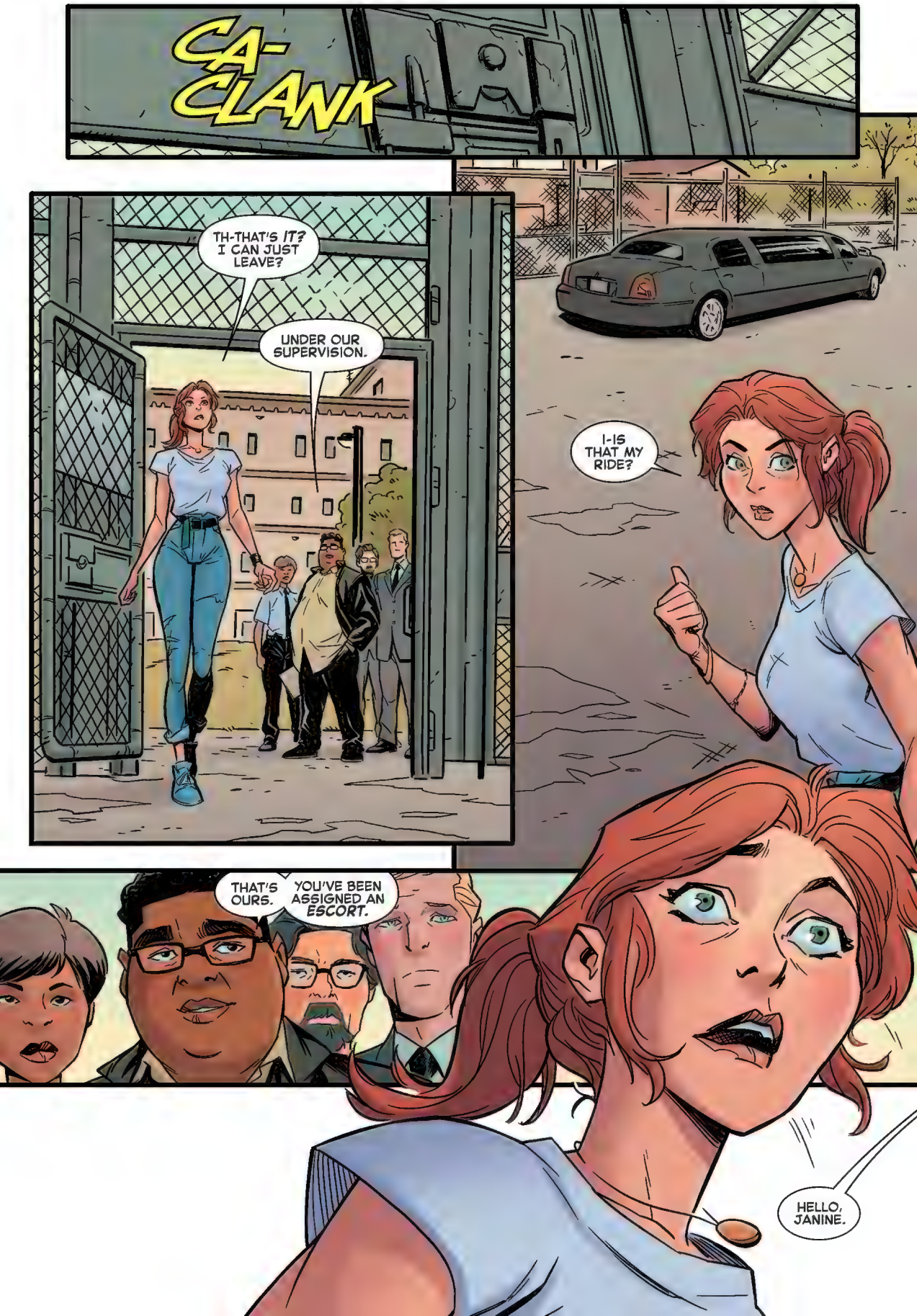

CALL ME JANINE.
I'LL CALL YOU WHATEVER I WANT, YOU STUPID--
HEY, HEY!
PUT IT AWAY, JOHNSON. THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
SHE'S NEW, JANINE. SORRY.
BUT I GOTTA GET YOU UP. YOU HAVE VISITORS.
NO PROBLEM.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAD TO SAY.

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE?
PROBABLY ANOTHER IDIOT WITH A PODCAST. THE *LAST* ONE TRIED TO PIN ALL OF KAINE'S MURDERS ON ME.
DON'T THINK *THESE* GUYS HAVE A PODCAST.
AREN'T YOU GONNA CUFF ME?
THEY WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE, BUT THEY HAVE A LOT OF POWER.

THAT'S TROUBLESOME.
I DON'T HAVE *FRIENDS*.


ELIZABETH TYNE, A.K.A. SARAH PORTER, A.K.A. JANINE GODBE.
USE THE LAST ONE.
SURE. MURDER ONE, RESISTING ARREST, ESCAPE IN THE FIRST DEGREE... EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN ASSURED THAT LAST ONE WASN'T YOUR IDEA.
ASSURED BY WHO?
I REALLY CAN'T SAY.
MS. GODBE, I WORK FOR THE BEYOND CORPORATION.
YOU MAKE CHOCO-LITTLE SNACK CAKES, RIGHT?
...YES. WE ALSO HAVE PRIVATE CONTRACTS WITH MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE REHABILITATE OFFENDERS WITH EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES AND THOSE ADJACENT TO SAID OFFENDERS.
YOUR EXPERIENCE IN SAID MATTERS QUALIFIES YOU FOR A PLACE IN OUR MINIMUM SECURITY FACILITY.
WE THINK YOU'D BE QUITE HAPPY THERE WHILE HELPING US ASSIST OTHERS IN YOUR SITUATION.
WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?

YOUR EXPERIENCE.
IN SAID MATTERS.
NO THANKS.
FIND ANOTHER GUINEA PIG.
MS. GODBE, I'D BE REMISS NOT TO MENTION THE LUXURIOUS STATE OF OUR FACILITIES.
WE'VE TAKEN GREAT PAINS--MOVED HEAVEN AND EARTH--TO ASSURE YOU'LL BE LIVING...
...THE LIFE OF RILEY.


CA-CLANK
TH-THAT'S IT? I CAN JUST LEAVE?
UNDER OUR SUPERVISION.
I-IS THAT MY RIDE?
THAT'S OURS.
YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED AN ESCORT.
HELLO, JANINE.

IT'S ME.
IT'S--
I KNOW, BEN.

I KNOW.
MARCUS?
TAKE HER HOME, SPIDER-MAN.
YOU HEAR THAT, JANINE?
WE'RE GOING HOME.
HOPE THIS WAS WORTH IT.
OF COURSE IT WAS.
YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON JOB LOYALTY.

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
Two Weeks Ago.
FRANCINE!
KAFKA
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? DON'T... PLEASE...
WHAAAT'sSsS THEEE POOOINNTTT OF LIIIIVIIIING
THAT'S A WOMAN'S VOICE.
FRANCINE FRYE. DILLON'S EX. THE MACHINE'S WORKING.
THIS PROVES HIS BIO-ELECTRICITY TRANSMITS NEUROLOGICAL SIGNALS.
MEMORIES.
IIIIIFFFF YYOOOOOUUUU DOOOONN'TTTT LIIIIVEE DAAANGGERRROOUSSLLYYY.
NO! DON'T--
AARRRGHHHHH!
HE'S RELIVING THE MOMENT SHE DIED!
THE SYSTEM'S OVERLOADED! CUT THE--

...EXPLOSION IS A DRAMATIC WAY TO PUT IT. I PREFER TO CALL IT A SETBACK.
FINE, IT WAS AN EXPLOSION. I DON'T WANT TO GET HUNG UP ON THAT. THE IMPORTANT PART IS GETTING THE EQUIPMENT REPAIRED.
IF I DESCRIBE MY WORK TO THE BOARD I'M SURE THEY'LL RELEASE THE FUNDS.
OKAY, BUT I'M JUST GOING TO CALL BACK TOMORROW.
MONEY TROUBLE?
YES. I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF MY OFFICE.
WHO ARE YOU?
CLICK
MARCUS MOMPLAISIR.
FAN OF YOUR WORK WITH ELECTRO. MAX DILLON, SORRY.
OR A CLONE OF MAX DILLON?
A HUMAN BEING WITH TRAUMATIC MEMORIES THAT MAY OR MAY NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR.
WE DON'T JUDGE WHERE THE MEMORIES CAME FROM. AND WE DON'T CALL OUR PATIENTS "CLONES."

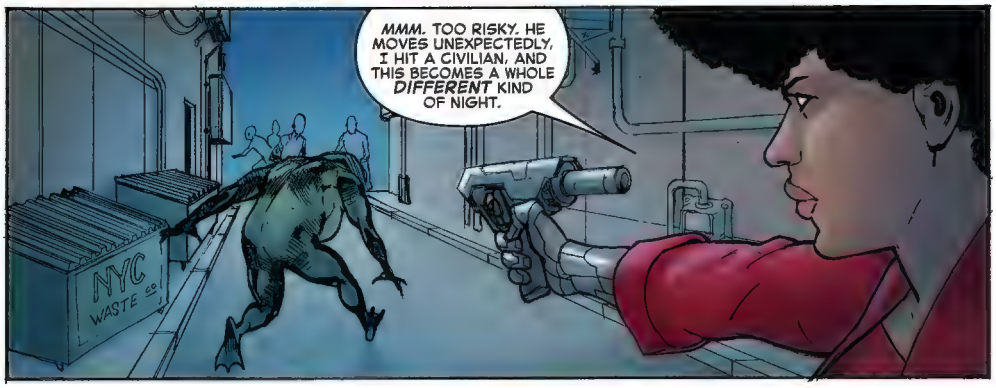
IS THAT THE STANCE OF THE INSTITUTE OR A PERSONAL CONVICTION, DR. KAFKA?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
YET.
I REPRESENT THE BEYOND CORPORATION, AND WE'D LIKE TO FUND THE ADVANCEMENT OF YOUR WORK.
...ACTUALLY, THAT'S A SIMPLISTIC WAY TO PUT IT. WE'RE A FEW STEPS AHEAD OF YOU ON THIS ALREADY.
BUT WE WOULD LIKE YOUR EXPERTISE IN THE REHABILITATION OF A SPECIFIC SUBJECT.
I'M IN.
THAT'S IT?
YOU MUST FIND THE SUBJECT VERY INTERESTING.
MR. MOMPLAISIR, YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
BEN REILLY

TWO WEEKS AGO.
LOVE AND MONSTERS
...MISTY, YOU ACTUALLY SAID THIS TO HIM?
RARRRGGH!
NO, COLLEEN, I'M SAYING THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD HAVE SAID.
GRAAAHHH!
WHOOOMB
SLICE
OH. THANK GOD.
GRRRRARGG-->

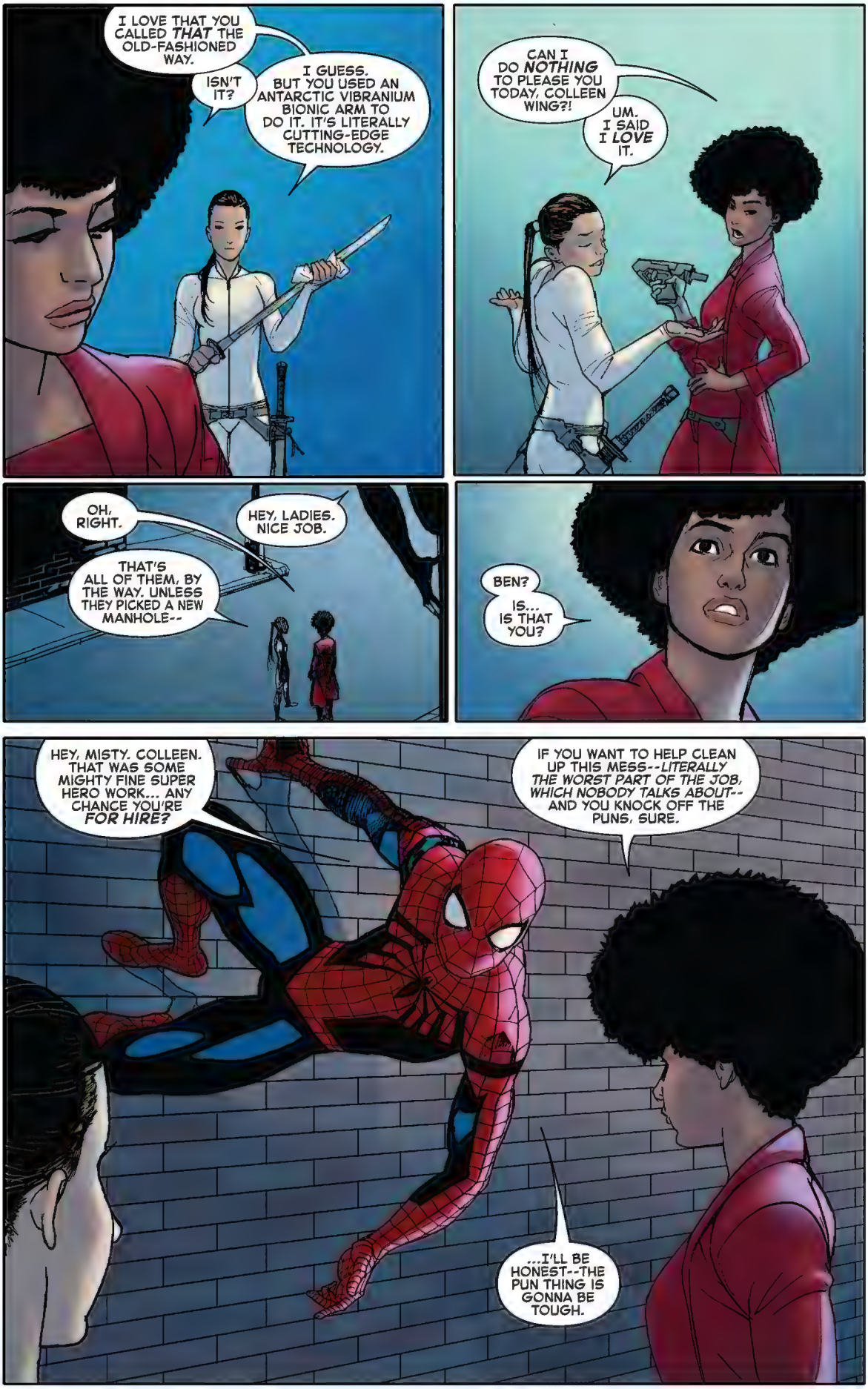
WAIT. IS THAT "THANK GOD" DIRECTED AT ME OR THE SEA MONSTER YOU'RE FIGHTING?
WOM WOM
YOU KNOW IT'S YOU.
WHAT?!
SWIPE
GURGGLE
OH, C'MON. IT WAS A LITTLE HARSH, DON'T YOU THINK?
SLICE
GAK!
NO, I DO NOT THINK.
WHOOOMB

SO...YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE NEVER TOO TOUGH ON PEOPLE? NEVER HAVE STANDARDS JUST SLIGHTLY TOO HIGH? NEVER MADE THE MISTAKE OF CUTTING PEOPLE OUT OF YOUR LIFE TOO FAST?
THAT'S NOT...THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
I'M JUST SAYING. HE SEEMED NICE. MAYBE HE DESERVED A SECOND CHANCE BEFORE HE GOT TOSSED ON THE PILE OF EXES.
MAYBE I'M MORE COMFORTABLE WITH PILES.
I HEARD THAT.
WHOOOOMB
I KNOW.
MAYBE I WANTED YOU TO.
THIS SOUNDS LIKE A POSITIVE PERSONAL REVELATION. WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT OVER PILES OF FOOD. BUT FIRST...
...ONE OF YOURS IS GETTING AWAY.
GRRRRR.

WHY IS HE ONE OF *MINE?*
HE'S ON *YOUR* SIDE.
PFFT.


MMM. TOO RISKY. HE MOVES UNEXPECTEDLY, I HIT A CIVILIAN, AND THIS BECOMES A WHOLE *DIFFERENT* KIND OF NIGHT.
NYC WASTE CO.

HAVE TO DO THIS THE *OLD-FASHIONED* WAY.
BOOM


I LOVE THAT YOU CALLED *THAT* THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
ISN'T IT?
I GUESS. BUT YOU USED AN ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM BIONIC ARM TO DO IT. IT'S LITERALLY CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY.
CAN I DO *NOTHING* TO PLEASE YOU TODAY, COLLEEN WING?!
UM. I SAID I *LOVE* IT.
OH, RIGHT.
HEY, LADIES. NICE JOB.
THAT'S ALL OF THEM, BY THE WAY. UNLESS THEY PICKED A NEW MANHOLE--
BEN?
IS... IS THAT YOU?
HEY, MISTY. COLLEEN. THAT WAS SOME MIGHTY FINE SUPER HERO WORK... ANY CHANCE YOU'RE *FOR HIRE?*
IF YOU WANT TO HELP CLEAN UP THIS MESS--*LITERALLY THE WORST PART OF THE JOB, WHICH NOBODY TALKS ABOUT*-- AND YOU KNOCK OFF THE PUNS, SURE.
...I'LL BE HONEST--THE PUN THING IS GONNA BE TOUGH.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS?
I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT AS A "NO."

NOW

WHOOSH
I'M NOW WONDERING WHY I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA.
WHOOSH
SLAM
HNNNNG!
HUBRIS. IT WAS HUBRIS.
THUNK THUNK THUNK THUNK THUNK
AND NOW I'M BEING PUNISHED.
WHICH... TRACKS.

BEYOND TRAINING FACILITY.

MANHATTAN.

YIPES!

HE'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE JUMPING BEANS.

BLAM

BLAM

THWP

ONE OF THOSE JUMPING *SPIDERS* MORE LIKE.

NO, THOSE AREN'T THIS *ANNOYING*.

I'M ANNOYING? YOU GUYS ARE *SHOOTING LIVE ROUNDS AT ME!*

I HAVE NO ROUNDS.

FINE. *SOME* OF YOU ARE FIRING LIVE ROUNDS AT ME, AND *SOME* OF YOU ARE SWINGING DEADLY BLADES AT ME.

BLAM

WHY *ELSE* ARE WE HERE, BEN?

SQUICK

UM. I APOLOGIZE? PLEASE STOP TRYING TO KILL ME?

WELL, YOU JUST RUINED MY FAVORITE GUN WITH YOUR GROSS WEBBING SO I SUGGEST YOU MOVE EVEN FASTER.

SURE. BUT YOU CAN HARDLY EXPECT ME TO STAND STILL.

UNLIKE YOU, WE *HAVE* NO EXPECTATIONS.

THAT'S FAIR.

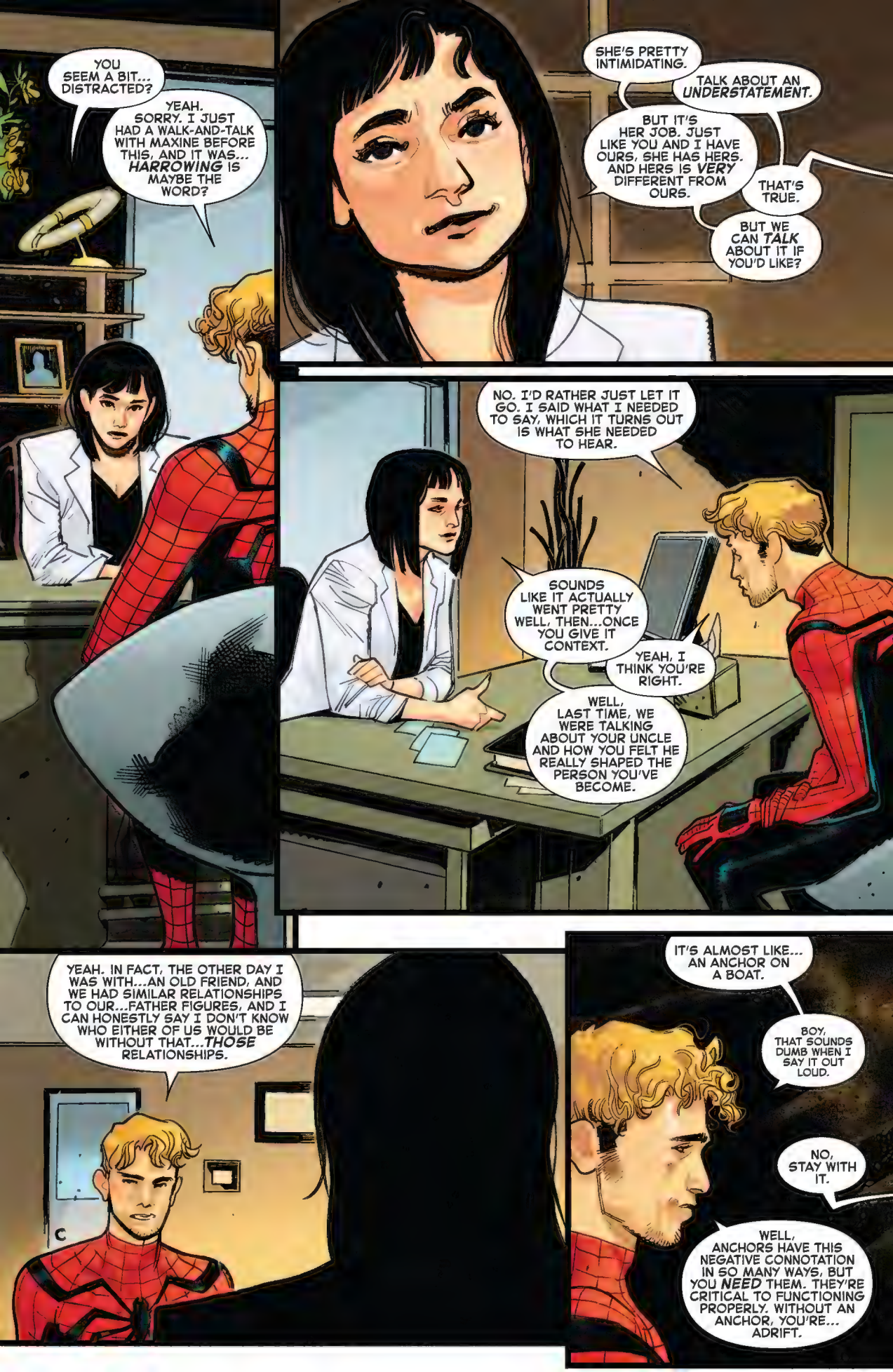
HE'S MOVING WELL TODAY, MARCUS.
I DON'T KNOW--I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE HIS NUMBER.
WASN'T THAT THE *IDEA?* GIVE HIM A CHALLENGE.
IT WAS. BUT HE SEEMS DISTRACTED TO ME.
PERHAPS IT'S THE INCESSANT "JOKES."
NO, I'D SAY THAT'S ABOUT TYPICAL.
WELL, SHUT IT DOWN.
ALL RIGHT, GUYS, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
THANK GOD.

LADIES. GENTLEMAN.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT BEN NEEDS TO BE OFF TO HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT, AND YOU TWO NEED TO HEAD OVER TO TECH AND TRAINING.
MAXINE DANGER, HEAD OF SUPER HERO DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BEYOND CORPORATION.
WHY'S THAT?
WE NEED YOU OUTFITTED WITH BEYOND TECH BEFORE WE CAN APPROVE YOU FOR THE FIELD. SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.
...SURE.
THANKS, GUYS.
YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE SO EASILY *TOMORROW*, BEN REILLY.
THAT'S... OMINOUS.
COLLEEN ALWAYS GETS HER MAN.
THAT'S SOMEHOW *MORE* OMINOUS.
WALK WITH ME, BEN.
YOU ARE SLOW ON YOUR RIGHT, BENJAMIN.
UH. OKAY.

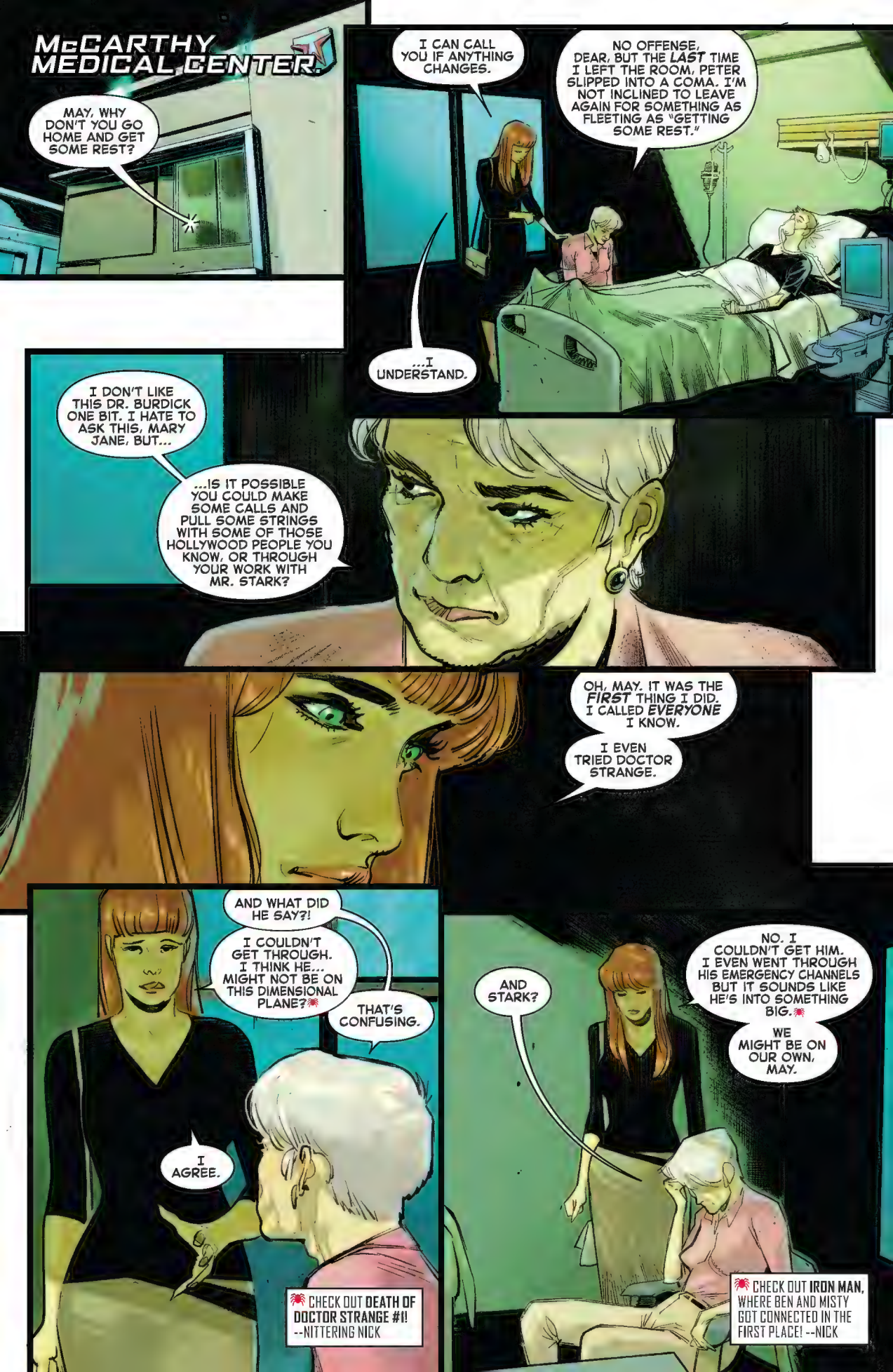
Y'KNOW, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME--I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH KAFKA...
KAFKA CAN WAIT.
OOOOKAY, THEN.
I WON'T BORE YOU WITH HOW MUCH WE'VE INVESTED IN YOU BEN.
I KNOW, I--
THIS WILL GO MORE SMOOTHLY IF YOU DON'T INTERRUPT ME.
...SORRY.
HOW DO THOSE FEEL?
EH. BETTER THAN THE LAST ONES.
I SAY WE'VE INVESTED A LOT, NOT TO MAKE YOU FEEL GUILTY OR BEHOLDEN, BUT JUST TO REITERATE HOW MUCH WE BELIEVE IN YOU. YOU HAVE A RARE CHANCE--WITH YOUR POWER AND BEYOND'S RESOURCES--TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE OUT THERE.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY.
AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING I THOUGHT YOU TOOK LIGHTLY EITHER.
I DON'T. I TAKE IT... WHATEVER THE OPPOSITE OF LIGHTLY IS... "HARD" SEEMS WRONG. I TAKE IT HARD? YEAH, THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
THIS IS NOT GOING WELL.
I THINK THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS "SERIOUSLY."
UH. YEAH. THAT IS THE WORD. I TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.

UH? HELP?
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
BECAUSE, BEN... I CAN'T HAVE YOU TAKING OFF YOUR SUIT AND TURNING OFF YOUR COMMS WHENEVER IT STRIKES YOUR FANCY.
I KNOW, BUT THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY AND I--
IT'S HAPPENED TWICE IN THE SPAN OF ONLY A FEW DAYS, BEN.
YEAH, I KNOW THAT LOOKS BAD. BUT--
AHHH!
STOP. I HAVE NO TOLERANCE FOR EXCUSES. KILLER DROP BEARS ATE MY HOMEWORK, BROCCOLI MEN CAUSED TRAFFIC ON THE FDR, THE BAND THUNDER THIGHS DESTROYED MY APARTMENT... I'VE HEARD IT ALL, BEN.
SANDWICH DEPARTMEN
I'M NOT TRYING TO GIVE YOU A HARD TIME. I'M TRYING TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE REALLY MY GUY. IF YOU'RE NOT MY GUY, I NEED TO KNOW NOW SO WE CAN CUT OUR LOSSES AND MOVE ON.
EXCUSE ME?
NOT EVERYONE CAN DO THIS, BEN. I KNOW YOU CAN... BUT I NEED YOU TO KNOW IT.
OHMIGODWHATHAVEWEDONE?

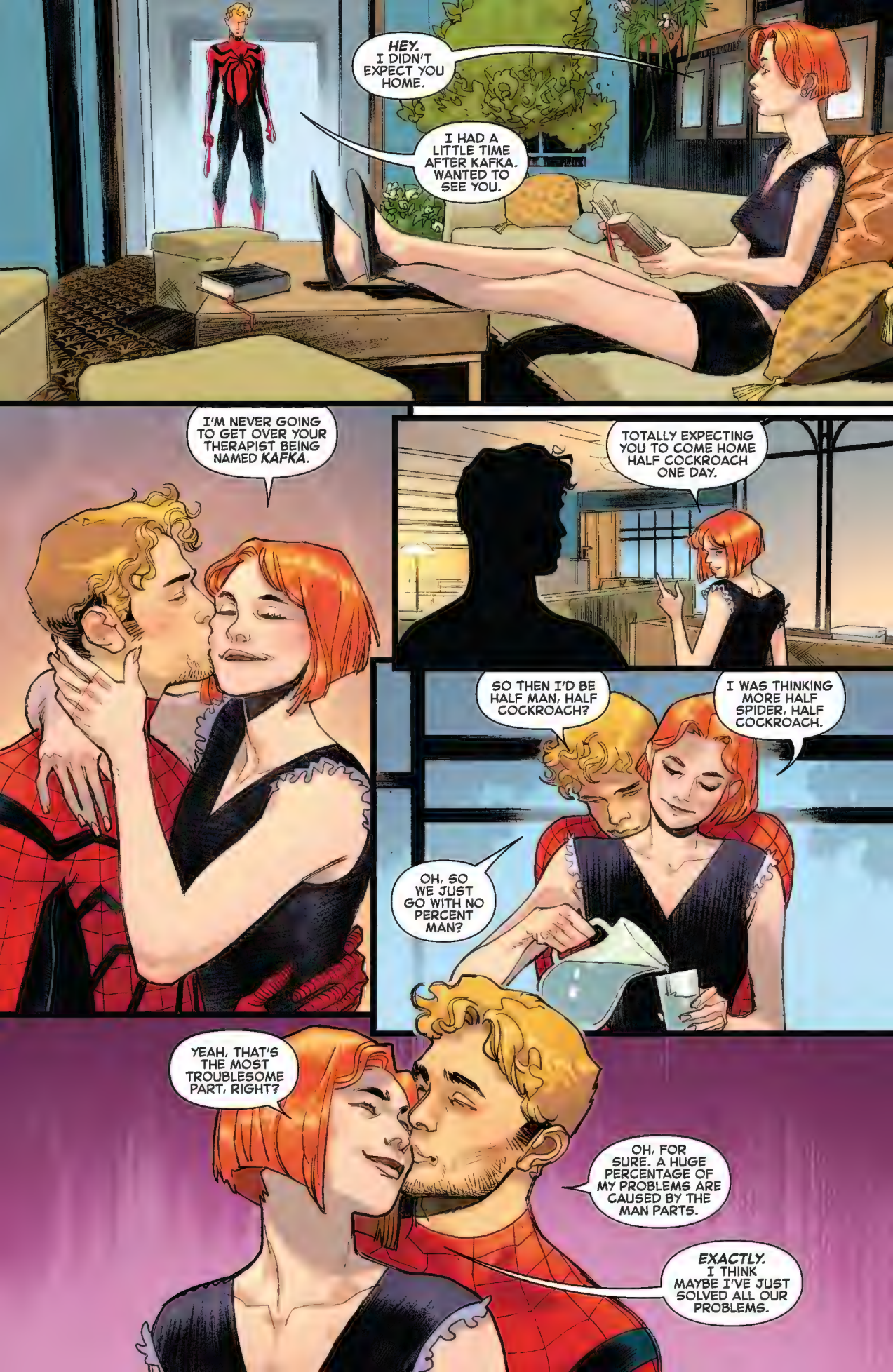
YOU HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION ON YOUR OWN...
DO YOU WANT TO BE SPIDER-MAN, BEN? OR DO YOU WANT TO BE THE SCRAGGLY-SAD-NOT-QUITE-GOT-IT-TOGETHER-ALMOST SPIDER-MAN WHO SHOWS UP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE AND ASKS FRIENDS FOR MONEY?
Ashley Kafka M.D.
I AM SPIDER-MAN.
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR, BEN. WELL DONE.
ENJOY THERAPY!
NO! I ALREADY TOLD YOU NO, TREVOR!
WELL, AFTER THAT CONVERSATION, THERAPY SHOULD BE A BREEZE.

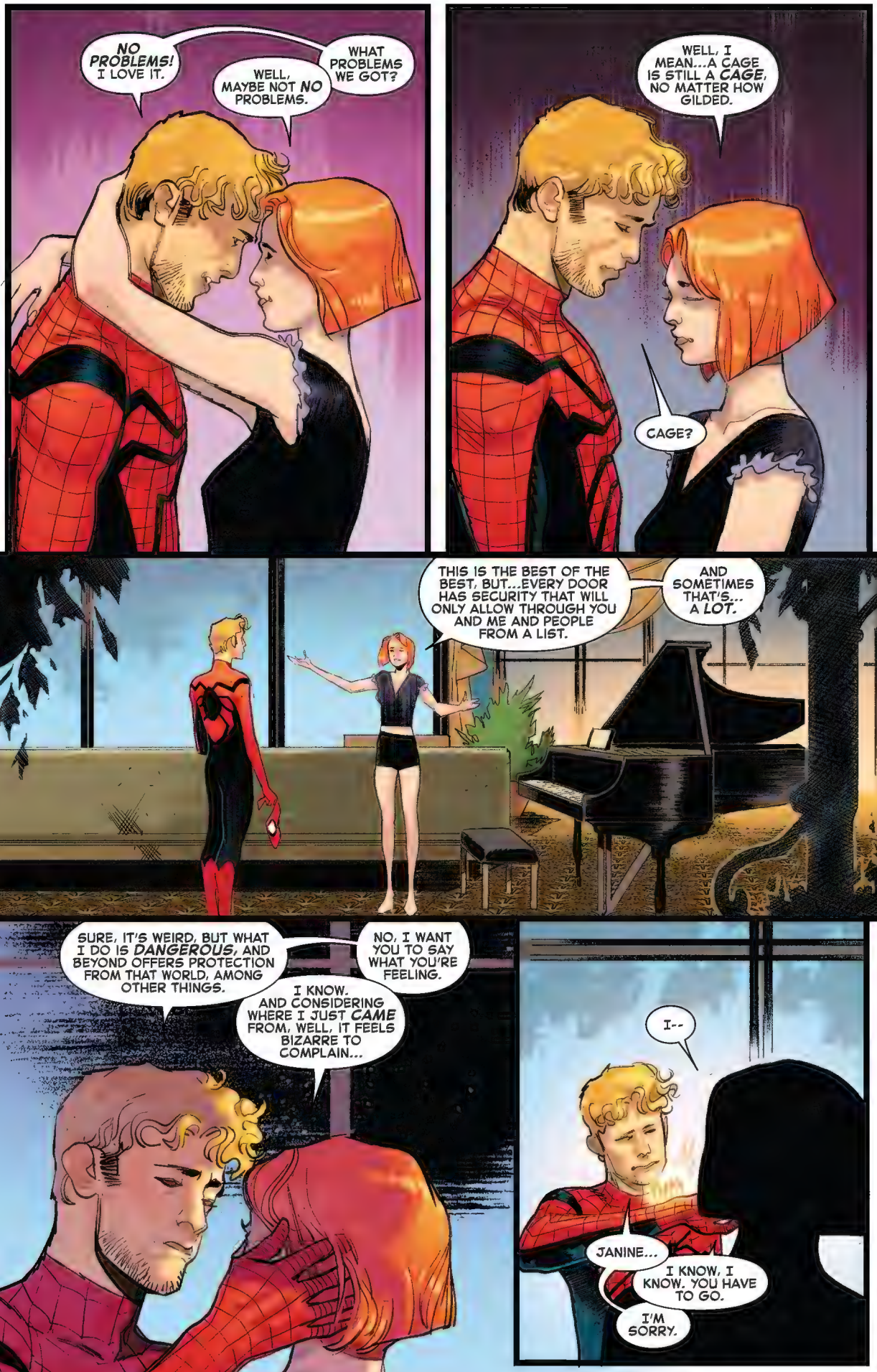

YOU SEEM A BIT... DISTRACTED?
YEAH. SORRY. I JUST HAD A WALK-AND-TALK WITH MAXINE BEFORE THIS, AND IT WAS... HARROWING IS MAYBE THE WORD?
SHE'S PRETTY INTIMIDATING.
TALK ABOUT AN UNDERSTATEMENT.
BUT IT'S HER JOB. JUST LIKE YOU AND I HAVE OURS, SHE HAS HERS. AND HERS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM OURS.
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU'D LIKE?
NO. I'D RATHER JUST LET IT GO. I SAID WHAT I NEEDED TO SAY, WHICH IT TURNS OUT IS WHAT SHE NEEDED TO HEAR.
SOUNDS LIKE IT ACTUALLY WENT PRETTY WELL, THEN...ONCE YOU GIVE IT CONTEXT.
YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL, LAST TIME, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR UNCLE AND HOW YOU FELT HE REALLY SHAPED THE PERSON YOU'VE BECOME.
YEAH. IN FACT, THE OTHER DAY I WAS WITH...AN OLD FRIEND, AND WE HAD SIMILAR RELATIONSHIPS TO OUR...FATHER FIGURES, AND I CAN HONESTLY SAY I DON'T KNOW WHO EITHER OF US WOULD BE WITHOUT THAT...THOSE RELATIONSHIPS.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE... AN ANCHOR ON A BOAT.
BOY, THAT SOUNDS DUMB WHEN I SAY IT OUT LOUD.
NO, STAY WITH IT.
WELL, ANCHORS HAVE THIS NEGATIVE CONNOTATION IN SO MANY WAYS, BUT YOU NEED THEM. THEY'RE CRITICAL TO FUNCTIONING PROPERLY. WITHOUT AN ANCHOR, YOU'RE... ADRIFT.

I REMEMBER THIS ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS FIXING A LOOSE STEP ON OUR FRONT PORCH IN THE POURING RAIN.
I MUST'VE BEEN ABOUT FOURTEEN, MAYBE?
MY AUNT HAD BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT IT FOR MONTHS, AND I'D BEEN PUTTING OFF FIXING IT ALL SUMMER.
I JUST HAD DIFFERENT PRIORITIES, Y'KNOW? I WAS A KID. WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT A LOOSE STEP?
AND THEN SHE FELL, AND I FELT GOD AWFUL ABOUT IT.
AND SO I'M OUT THERE IN THE RAIN, TRYING TO FIX THIS STEP, AND MY UNCLE COMES OUT AND SAYS...
AND HE SAYS... WAIT...THAT'S WEIRD.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I...I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID. I... IT WAS RIGHT THERE... AND NOW IT'S JUST GONE. THAT'S SO STRANGE.
IT'S LIKE...REVERSE DEJA VU OR SOMETHING.
I WOULDN'T WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT IT TOO MUCH, BEN.
BUT IT'S WEIRD, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS, ACTUALLY. YOU'VE GOT A LOT GOING ON. A LOT OF CHANGES IN YOUR LIFE, VERY QUICKLY.
AND EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THEM ARE POSITIVE CHANGES, I THINK IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SOME REACTION TO THAT.
I'LL RECOMMEND TO BEYOND THAT THEY SCALE YOUR COMMITMENTS BACK SLIGHTLY--JUST FOR A DAY OR TWO--GIVE YOU A CHANCE FOR A NIGHT OFF, A CHANCE FOR YOUR BRAIN TO CATCH UP WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.
OKAY. THANKS. THAT'D BE NICE. I KNOW JANINE WOULD DEFINITELY APPRECIATE AN UNINTERRUPTED DATE NIGHT.
TERRIFIC.


McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.
MAY, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST?
I CAN CALL YOU IF ANYTHING CHANGES.
NO OFFENSE, DEAR, BUT THE LAST TIME I LEFT THE ROOM, PETER SLIPPED INTO A COMA. I'M NOT INCLINED TO LEAVE AGAIN FOR SOMETHING AS FLEETING AS "GETTING SOME REST."
...I UNDERSTAND.
I DON'T LIKE THIS DR. BURDICK ONE BIT. I HATE TO ASK THIS, MARY JANE, BUT...
...IS IT POSSIBLE YOU COULD MAKE SOME CALLS AND PULL SOME STRINGS WITH SOME OF THOSE HOLLYWOOD PEOPLE YOU KNOW, OR THROUGH YOUR WORK WITH MR. STARK?
OH, MAY. IT WAS THE FIRST THING I DID. I CALLED EVERYONE I KNOW.
I EVEN TRIED DOCTOR STRANGE.
AND WHAT DID HE SAY?!
I COULDN'T GET THROUGH. I THINK HE... MIGHT NOT BE ON THIS DIMENSIONAL PLANE?
THAT'S CONFUSING.
I AGREE.
CHECK OUT DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE #1! --NITTERING NICK
AND STARK?
NO. I COULDN'T GET HIM. I EVEN WENT THROUGH HIS EMERGENCY CHANNELS BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S INTO SOMETHING BIG.
WE MIGHT BE ON OUR OWN, MAY.
CHECK OUT IRON MAN, WHERE BEN AND MISTY GOT CONNECTED IN THE FIRST PLACE! --NICK

NOPE.
WHAT?
IT DOESN'T HAPPEN THIS WAY. NOT TO MY PETER. I WON'T HAVE IT.
MAY... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MAY, PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY.
I'M JUST GOING TO MAKE A COUPLE OF HOUSE CALLS.
TO WHO?
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT, DEAR.
MAY. WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, BE CAREFUL. PETER WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU.
I'LL TAKE ANGRY PETER OVER COMATOSE PETER ANY DAY, MARY JANE.
ME TOO.
PLEASE COME BACK TO ME, TIGER.


HEY. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU HOME.
I HAD A LITTLE TIME AFTER KAFKA. WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I'M NEVER GOING TO GET OVER YOUR THERAPIST BEING NAMED KAFKA.
TOTALLY EXPECTING YOU TO COME HOME HALF COCKROACH ONE DAY.
SO THEN I'D BE HALF MAN, HALF COCKROACH?
I WAS THINKING MORE HALF SPIDER, HALF COCKROACH.
OH, SO WE JUST GO WITH NO PERCENT MAN?
YEAH, THAT'S THE MOST TROUBLESOME PART, RIGHT?
OH, FOR SURE. A HUGE PERCENTAGE OF MY PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY THE MAN PARTS.
EXACTLY. I THINK MAYBE I'VE JUST SOLVED ALL OUR PROBLEMS.


NO PROBLEMS! I LOVE IT.
WELL, MAYBE NOT NO PROBLEMS.
WHAT PROBLEMS WE GOT?
WELL, I MEAN...A CAGE IS STILL A CAGE, NO MATTER HOW GILDED.
CAGE?
THIS IS THE BEST OF THE BEST, BUT...EVERY DOOR HAS SECURITY THAT WILL ONLY ALLOW THROUGH YOU AND ME AND PEOPLE FROM A LIST.
AND SOMETIMES THAT'S... A LOT.
SURE, IT'S WEIRD, BUT WHAT I DO IS DANGEROUS, AND BEYOND OFFERS PROTECTION FROM THAT WORLD, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
NO, I WANT YOU TO SAY WHAT YOU'RE FEELING.
I KNOW. AND CONSIDERING WHERE I JUST CAME FROM, WELL, IT FEELS BIZARRE TO COMPLAIN...
I--
JANINE...
I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU HAVE TO GO.
I'M SORRY.

IT'S OKAY. THIS IS THE DEAL, RIGHT?
...RIGHT.
CAN WE FINISH THIS CONVERSATION LATER?
SURE.
KAFKA'S GETTING ME A BIT OF TIME OFF--WE SHOULD PLAN A DATE NIGHT.
THAT'D BE NICE. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, BEN.
ALWAYS.
LOVE YOU!
VOICE VERIFIED.
HEAT SIGNATURE VERIFIED.
BODY SCENT VERIFIED.
ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.
GOODBYE, SPIDER-MAN.
LOVE YOU TOO.

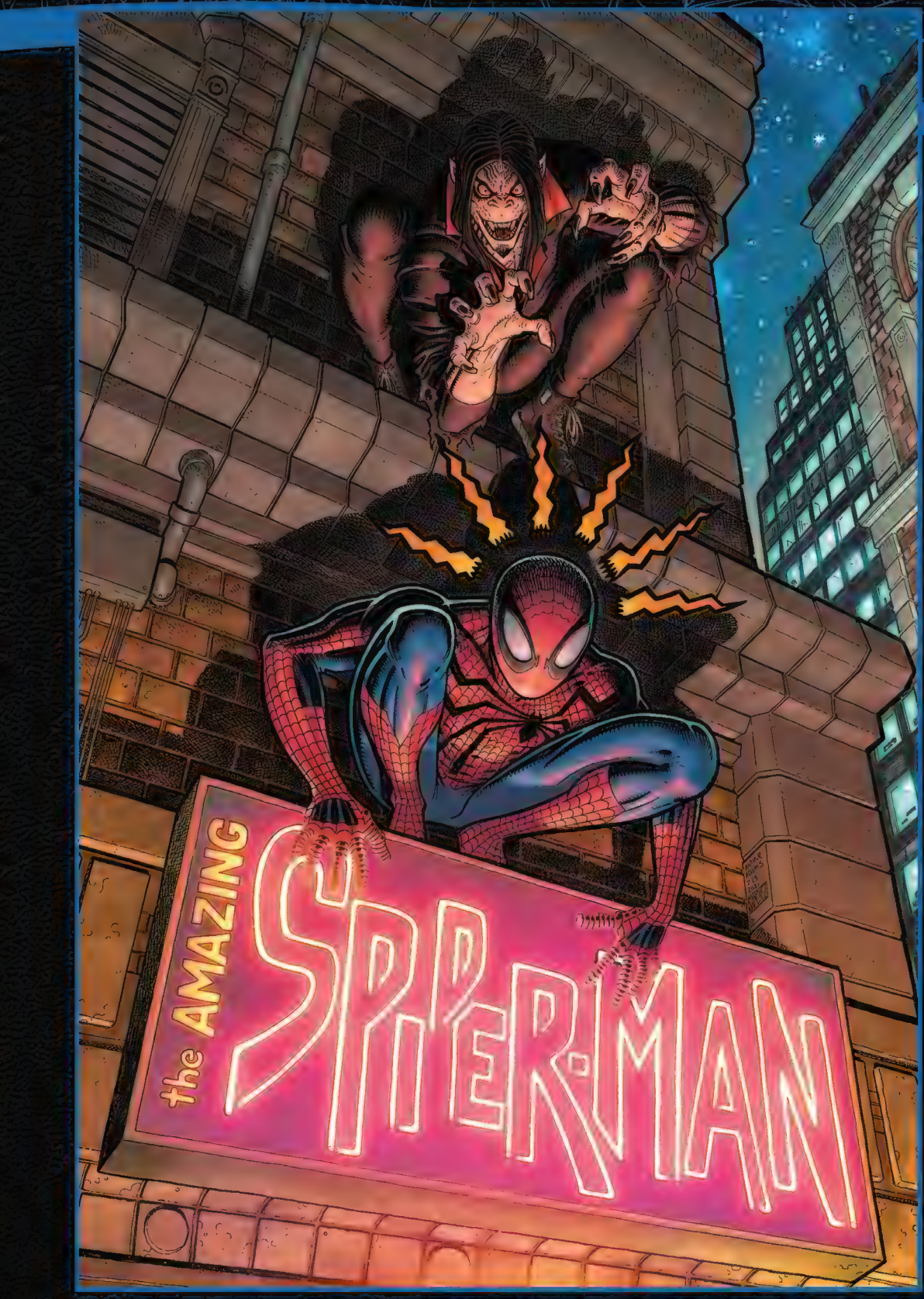
SOMEWHERE IN MIDTOWN.
BEYOND'S INTEL HAS BEEN ON POINT SO FAR, BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT I EXPECTED TO FIND.
LAST I HEARD, MORBIUS WAS BACK TO DOING GOOD WORK... HAD GOTTEN HIMSELF TOGETHER AFTER THAT LAST SETBACK.*
THIS DOES NOT LOOK "TOGETHER."
SEE MORBIUS: THE LIVING VAMPIRE!
TRY TO KEEP IT CASUAL. KEEP HIM CALM. GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, MAYBE WITHOUT ANY MORE BLOODSHED.
MORBIUS. MICHAEL... WHAT, UH...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, MAN?
TELL ME YOU DIDN'T DO ALL THIS.
SPIDER-MAN!

GRAAAAAHH!
HEY NOW! THAT'S, UH... SOME MIGHT TAKE THAT LUNGE AS SOMEWHAT UNFRIENDLY.
CONSIDERING ALL THESE BODIES, YOU BEING ALL WILD-EYED AND COVERED IN BLOOD, THIS IS NOT LOOKING GOOD. TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING.
GRAAHHHG!
THMP
"GRAAAAHHHG" IS NOT SUPER HELPFUL.
ARRGGHH!
MMM. THAT'S SORTA JUST THE SAME.
I THINK MAYBE TALKING THIS OUT ISN'T GOING TO WORK AFTER ALL.

SLICE
GAH!
COLLEEN WAS RIGHT... I AM SLOW ON THE RIGHT.
WHAM
RRRRRANEEEEEED YOURRRR BLOOOD
THMP
THAT'S... NOT WHAT I NEED TO HEAR, MICHAEL.
I KNOW I SAW SOME OF THESE PEOPLE MOVING...
ARRRGHHH!
GRAAAHHHH!

C'MON, HAVE A PULSE. PLEASE BE ALIVE.
OH CRAP.
MORBIUS? PLEASE...LET ME HELP YOU... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
??
?
BLAM!
TOO LATE.
HE'S SO STRONG. WAS HE ALWAYS THIS STRONG AND FAST?

FORGIVE ME.
CAN'T BREAK HIS GRIP... NOT BEFORE...
SLIKT
...THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...


the AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

STILL SOMEWHERE IN MIDTOWN.
RAAAAAGGGHHH!
SLICH
SO, THIS IS NOT GOING GREAT.
AND THAT BITE WENT DEEP. SUIT IS DOING ITS JOB FOR THE MOST PART, BUT HE DEFINITELY GOT THROUGH.
ALERT! OUTSUIT! BREACH.
ALERT! MORBIUS DETECTED
TOXIN! IDENTIFIED
BLOODSTREAM!
BLEEDING IS PRETTY BAD, ACTUALLY. SUIT IS SELF-SEALING...SHOULD STOP THE BLEEDING... ANNNNNY SECOND NOW...
HHHRNNNNNG
STILL GONNA NEED AN ANTIDOTE...OR SOMETHING?
MORBIUS ;KOFFÉ I STILL THINK WE CAN TALK THIS OUT, MAN. ;KOFFÉ
GRRRRAHNOOOOT WORKINNNNGGGG.
"NOT WORKING"?

RAAAAGGGGH!
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
HE'S BITTEN PETER BEFORE-- SUPPOSEDLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAL HIMSELF. IS THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WAS HE... TRYING TO USE MY BLOOD AS A CURE?
SM
OH GOD. DON'T FAINT, REILLY. EVEN IF MORBIUS DOESN'T KILL YOU, THE EMBARRASSMENT WILL.

SLICE
ARGGH!
KNOCK IT OFF!
NEEEEEEED MORRRRRRRE.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE... BUT I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP EITHER.
IF HE WANTS ME SPECIFICALLY... MAYBE HE'LL FOLLOW ME?
BUT TO WHERE?
HEH. YEAH. THAT'S AN IDEA.
THWIP

AS IDEAS GO, IT'S NOT MY BEST--BUT HARDLY MY WORST.
THMP
JUST GOTTA HOPE HE DOESN'T GIVE UP TOO SOON.

BEYOND BUILDING, BEN REILLY'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT.
WELL, HERE WE GO. DON'T LET ME DOWN NOW, LANGSTON.
VOICE VERIFIED. HEAT SIGNATURE VERIFIED. BODY SCENT VERIFIED. ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED. WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.
YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.
CONSIDERING WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, I LOOK GREAT.
MORBIUS. STOP. YOU ARE DECIDEDLY NOT INVITED. GET IT?
YEAH, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THE JOKES EITHER, TO BE HONEST...
...BUT THIS SECURITY SYSTEM IS NO JOKE. STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND LET ME GET YOU SOME HELP.
GRAAAAH!

DESIGNATE MORBIUS. SECURITY MEASURES 3-M-96-04-X
AWWWWWWWWWWWWWW
ARRRGGGHHH!
THUD
GRRRAAAAAH
NO!

BEN?
BEN!
BEN!
LANGSTON! CALL FOR HEL--
ALREADY HERE, MA'AM. LANGSTON LET US--
JUST HELP HIM!
LANGSTON SECURITY OVERRIDE PROTOCOL 61 DASH 9. OPERATOR JOHNSON. AUTHORIZATION CODE 11246.
VERIFIED. SECURITY SYSTEM DISABLED.
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW, MISS. WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE SUIT OFF, SEE THE EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES.
OH BARF. I THINK THERE'S A NIPPLE IN THIS BIT.
BAG IT.
I HATE YOU.

JANINE, I'M SORRY-- YOU CAN'T GO.
WHAT?! MARCUS, THAT'S CRAZY. HE NEEDS ME.
I KNOW, BUT THEY WON'T LET YOU INTO THE MEDICAL FACILITY WITH HIM. I PROMISE YOU I WON'T LEAVE HIS SIDE AND I'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED AT EVERY STEP.
CLICK
LANGSTON SECURITY SYSTEM BACK ONLINE. ARMED.
...GREAT.

I SEE A NECK WOUND AND SOME WOUNDS TO THE MIDDLE TO LOWER TORSO... THE SCAN PICKING UP ANYTHING ELSE?
NO, DOCTOR. THE SUIT IS OTHERWISE INTACT.
EXCELLENT.
ARMOR SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED. AND...I HAVE PUNCTURE WOUNDS HERE. TWO. DEEPER THAN I'D LIKE. DO WE KNOW WHO HE WAS FIGHTING?
HE WAS FIGHTING MORBIUS, DOCTOR BAILEY.
IN THAT CASE, NURSE, PREPARE THE ANTITOXIN, PLEASE.
DOCTOR, WHAT EFFECTS MIGHT WE SEE IF WE DON'T ADMINISTER THE ANTITOXIN AT THIS TIME?
WHY... WHY WOULDN'T WE GIVE HIM THE ANTITOXIN?
THAT'S A QUESTION, DOCTOR BAILEY. I ASKED YOU FOR AN ANSWER.
WHAT MIGHT WE SEE IN BEN REILLY IF WE DO NOT INOCULATE HIM AGAINST MORBIUS' VAMPIRE VIRUS?
UH...IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHAT WE MIGHT SEE... BUT THE RISKS ARE--

I'M WELL AWARE THAT THERE ARE RISKS, DOCTOR, BUT THERE IS RISK IN *ANYTHING* BOLD. DOES THAT MEAN WE STOP *BEING* BOLD?
WILL REILLY DEVELOP ENTIRELY NEW VAMPIRE-BASED POWERS? COULD IT UNLOCK NEW SPIDER-VAMPIRE HYBRID POWERS? THIS COULD BE A RESEARCH GOLD MINE.
OH MY GOD--
WHAT?
N-NOTHING, MA'AM.
DOCTOR BAILEY?
WE...WE CAN'T POSSIBLY *KNOW* WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, DIRECTOR DANGER... IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNETHICAL TO EVEN *SPECULATE...*
AGREED. PROCEED WITH THE ANTITOXIN. KEEP ME APPRISED OF REILLY'S CONDITION AND NOTIFY ME WHEN YOU BEGIN TO PROCESS THE MORBIUS... *PARTS.*
B-TEAM BETTER BE READY, VASQUEZ, BECAUSE THEY'RE UP.
AND IF THEY WON'T WEAR THE BEYOND GEAR, THEY HAVE TO TAKE THE DRONES WITH THEM. *NO ARGUMENTS.*

McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.
OH, SPIDER.
COME BACK TO ME, SPIDER.

PETE?!
PETER?!
GASP
PETER! PETER. C'MON, TIGER. WAKE UP. YOU CAN DO IT.

I...I'M SORRY. I'LL GO.
NO. YOU SHOULD STAY. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM MOVE SINCE THIS STARTED.
...I'M SORRY.
DON'T BE. I'LL TAKE THAT-- HOWEVER I CAN GET IT.
I'D FEEL THE SAME WAY.
BUT CHANGE YOUR DAMN CLOTHES BEFORE A NURSE COMES IN HERE.
OKAY. YEAH. GOOD TIP.
C'MON, TIGER. I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. HOW MANY MORE LOVE INTERESTS YOU WANT ME TO GET IN THIS ROOM? I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

C'MON, MORBIUS. THIS ISN'T YOU. I MEAN, IT SORT OF IS, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D MOVED PAST THIS NONSENSE.
WHOOMB
ARGGGHHH!
HIS INJURIES ARE SEVERE.
DID SPIDER-MAN DO THIS, OR BEYOND?
DEFINITELY STRIKES ME AS MORE BEYOND THAN SPIDER.
BREEEP.
NO OFFENSE.
I HATE THE DRONES. AND I DO NOT CARE IF THEY TAKE OFFENSE.
BREEEP.
MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL TO KNOW WE ARE BEING MONITORED LIKE THIS.

I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT IF WE WANT TO CASH THE CHECKS, WE TAKE THE DRONES.
THE CHECK BETTER BE LARGE.
TING
I HOPE YOU'RE READY WITH THAT RIDICULOUS SPIDER-STRAIGHTJACKET NONSENSE.
KRAK
I AM.
GOOD, BECAUSE HE IS STRONG AS HELL, INJURIES BE DAMNED.

GRAAAH!
$#%&.
NOT SO FAST.
KA-POW
NO BITING!
UHAVE

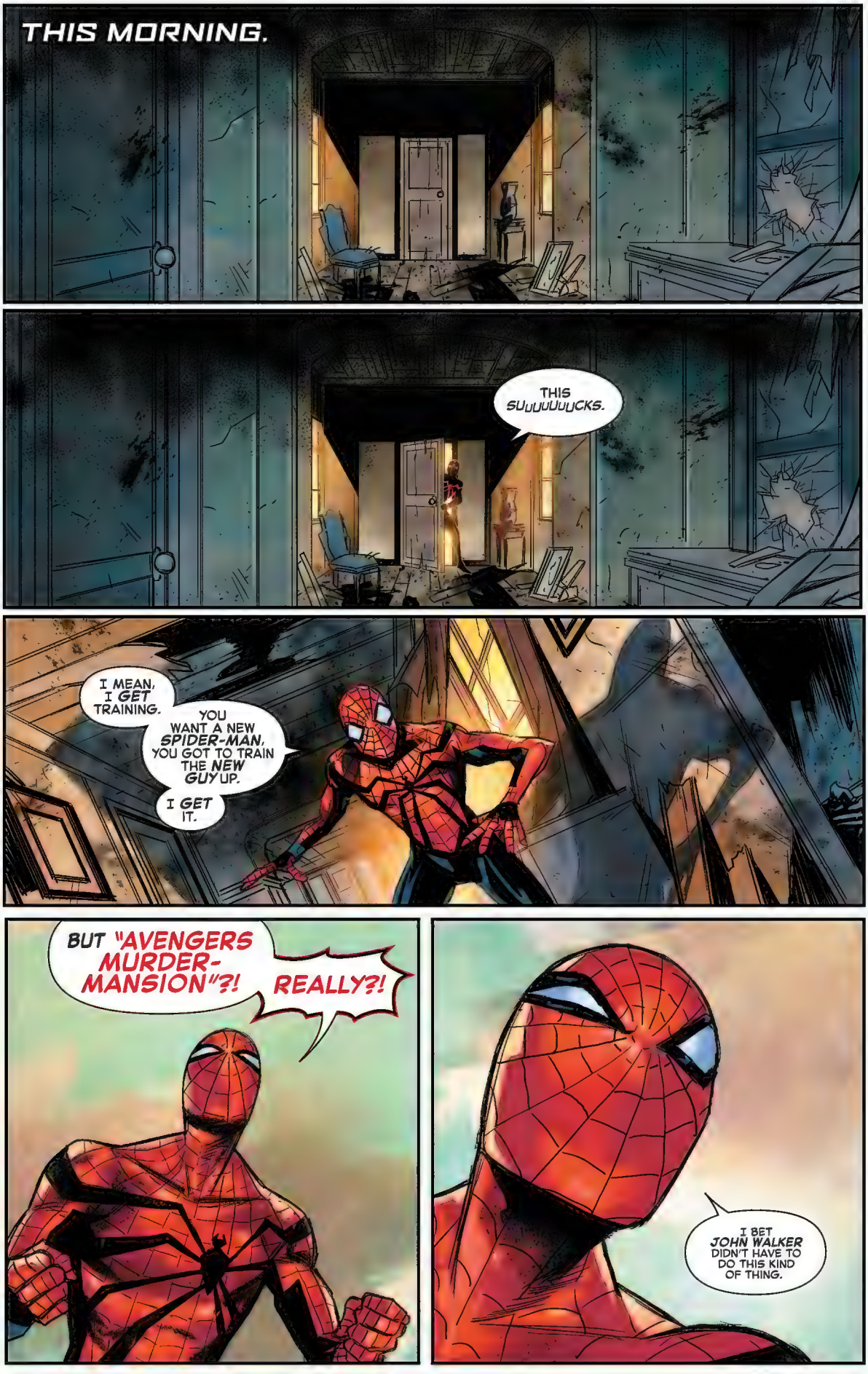
UGH. I'M SORRY, MAN. ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR ARM ALL MESSED UP. BUT WE CAN'T LET YOU RUN AROUND THE CITY LIKE THIS.
ESPECIALLY NOT WITH ALL THE BITING.
YEAH, THE BITING SUCKS. NO PUN INTENDED.
YOU WERE EXCITED ABOUT THAT PUN-- ADMIT IT.
I WILL NOT.
DEPLOY SPINNERETTE.
BUT MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GONE WRONG HERE... WHAT DO YOU SAY?
GRAAAHH!
HARDLY A YES.
HARDLY.
FFWPT!
TIMMG!

LADIES.
MONICA. IT'S ABOUT TIME, GIRL.
OH NO. YOU DESTROYED THE ANNOYING SPY DRONES, MONICA. WHATEVER SHALL WE DOOO?
I LOVE YOUR DEADPAN VOICE. IT'S TRULY MY FAVORITE OF YOUR VOICES.
DON'T LIE TO IMPRESS MONICA--YOU KNOW YOU LIKE MY ELMO VOICE BEST.
THAT IS... TRUE.
NOT TO CUT THROUGH THE CHITCHAT, WHICH I LOVE, BUT BEYOND SURELY HAS A REPLACEMENT DRONE EN ROUTE ALREADY. WE MUST BE QUICK...
WHAT HAVE YOU TWO FOUND SO FAR?

PALACE
STEGMAN: A COMEDY
5:00
8:30
IT WAS GOOD. I LIKED IT.
BEN, YOU WERE ASLEEP.
NO... THAT'S HOW I WATCH MOVIES NOW. COOL, RIGHT?
YES, EVERYONE LOVED THE SNORING. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS SUPER COOL.
OH GOD. I DIDN'T. NOT REALLY.
ONLY A LITTLE.
BUT HONESTLY, I'M JUST SO GRATEFUL YOU'RE OKAY, I'LL TAKE YOU AND ALL THE SNORES.
I SHOULD HAVE CLOSE CALLS MORE OFTEN, THEN.
PLEASE DON'T. I WAS SO SCARED, BEN.
I KNOW. AND I'M SO SORRY I HAD TO BRING THAT FIGHT TO OUR DOORSTEP. I HOPE YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT IF I'D HAD ANY OTHER OPTION.

I KNOW. AND IF IT SAVED YOU, THEN I'M GLAD YOU DID IT. I LOVE YOU, BEN.
I LOVE YOU TOO, JANINE.
AH, HOW SWEET. BUT THOSE CRAZY KIDS SHOULD PROBABLY MAKE THAT A GOODBYE KISS.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
YOU'LL NOTE THAT I DIDN'T PHRASE THAT AS A QUESTION.
MISTY KNIGHT
Hard as a coffin nail.
COLLEEN WING
Born without brakes.
DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON
Rougher than twenty miles of country road.


THIS MORNING.
THIS SUUUUUUUCKS.
I MEAN, I GET TRAINING.
YOU WANT A NEW SPIDER-MAN, YOU GOT TO TRAIN THE NEW GUY UP.
I GET IT.
BUT "AVENGERS MURDER-MANSION"?!
REALLY?!
I BET JOHN WALKER DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS KIND OF THING.

WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS, SPIDER-MAN!
WHOA!
HOPE YOU SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE!
YEEP!
ISN'T THAT AN X-MEN THING?
SO IT'S AN X-MEN THING.
GIMME A BREAK. I NEVER DATED ANY AVENGERS.

THIS SUCKS
THIS SUCKS
THIS SUCKS
CRASH!
YAAAAH!
THERE'S GIANT-MAN NIGHTMARES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
JUST GOT TO GET TO THE GOAL...
THWIPP!
JUST GOT TO--
SPLAT
AND HE AND WASP ALWAYS WERE A PACKAGE DEAL.

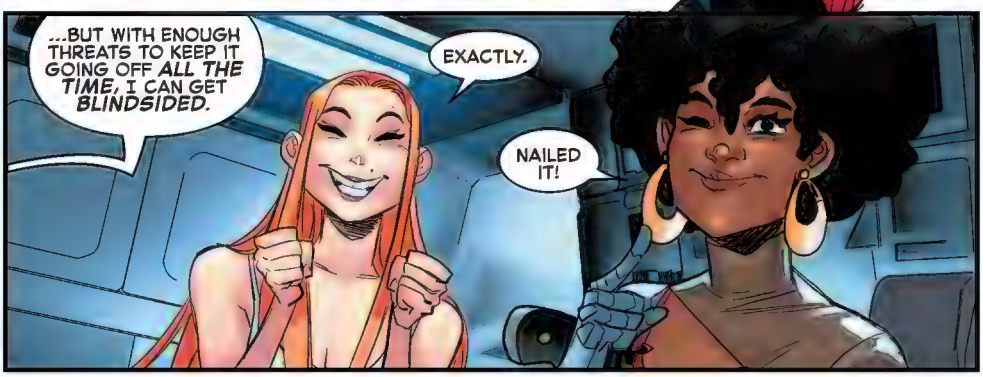
TWD
nuts.
BOO.
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

HELL IF I KNOW.
COLLEEN BUILT THIS SCENARIO.
END SIMULATION.
COME ON! AVENGERS MURDER-MANSION?
YOU'RE THE FINAL GIRL! THE CHEERLEADER!
IT'S LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A HORROR MOVIE!
I DATED IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEEN.
HEY, I SPENT MY YOUTH LEARNING THE BLADE.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S HELPING YOUR CASE.

SO. WHAT DID WE LEARN?

I HAVE NO IDEA. WARN THE AVENGERS AGAINST...SOMEONE WITH HORROR-MOVIE POWERS? OR JUST COLLEEN?
GOOD ADVICE.
TRAINING-WISE.

SPIDER-SENSE.
IT'S GREAT FOR ALERTING ME TO THREATS...


...BUT WITH ENOUGH THREATS TO KEEP IT GOING OFF ALL THE TIME, I CAN GET BLINDSIDED.
EXACTLY.
NAILED IT!

OUTSTANDING.
MS. KNIGHT, MS. WING, WITH ME, PLEASE.

THERE'S A PROBLEM DOWNTOWN. AND I THINK THAT BEYOND IS WELL POSITIONED TO SOLVE IT.
AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TWO TO SOLVE IT FOR ME.

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?
A, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, ROBOT MONSTER. WE'VE CODENAMED IT "OBSIDIAN STAR."
IT'S ON A RAMPAGE, AND NO ONE'S THERE TO STOP IT YET.
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A LITTLE POSITIVE WORD OF MOUTH FOR US.
AND BEFORE YOU SAY THAT THIS ISN'T IN YOUR CONTRACTS...
...IS SAVING INNOCENT PEOPLE SOMETHING YOU TWO NEED TO BE CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED TO DO?

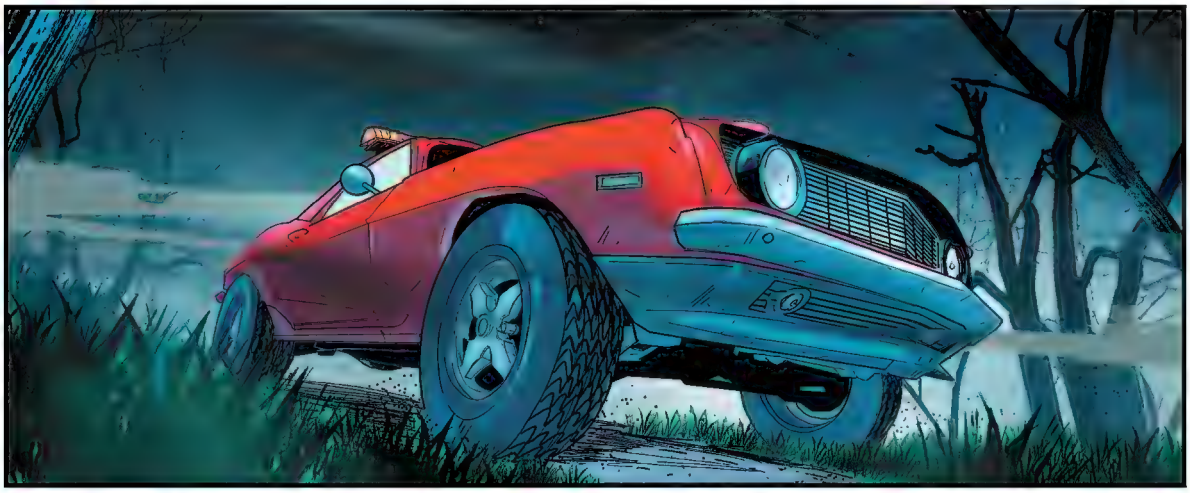
THAT REALLY SUCKED, BY THE WAY.
SUPER SUCKED.
PLEASE.
YOU TWO MAY NOT BE SUPER HEROES--
DAMN RIGHT.
--BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT. WHY DO YOU THINK I HIRED YOU?
BESIDES, I DIDN'T SEND YOU OFF NAKED, DID I?
DID I NOT GENEROUSLY SUPPLY YOU WITH A VERY COOL CAR AND FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH THE FINEST MAD SCIENCE THAT THE BEYOND CORPORATION SPECIAL PROJECTS R&D GROUP COULD SUPPLY?
IT WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY COOL CAR.

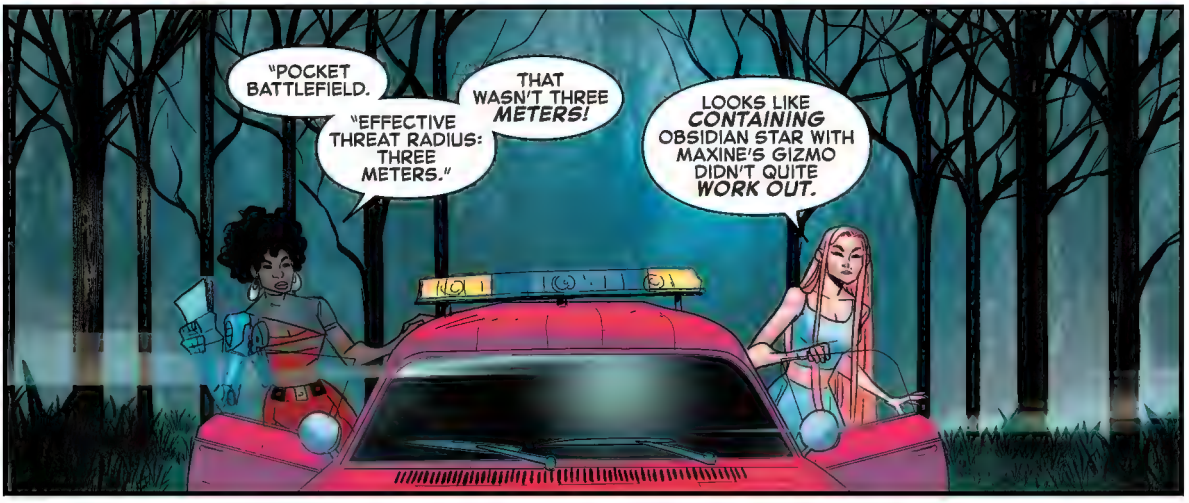
BEEEE-YOOOND
BEEEE-YOOOOND
KREEEEECH
DEAR LORD, SHE GAVE US AN ANTIMATTER BOMB.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CONVINCED ME TO LET YOU DRIVE.
HEY BABE, ONE OF US HAS TO READ THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR ALL THIS STUFF MAXINE GAVE US...
BEEEE-YOOOND
BEEEE-YOOOND
...AND YOU KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ME.
KRASSH!!

BESIDES, YOU'RE THE SHOOTING ONE.
I'M THE SWORD ONE.
AND NOW THE DRIVING ONE. THIS RULES.
HUSH NOW.
THERE IT IS.
"KEEP THE CAR STEADY."

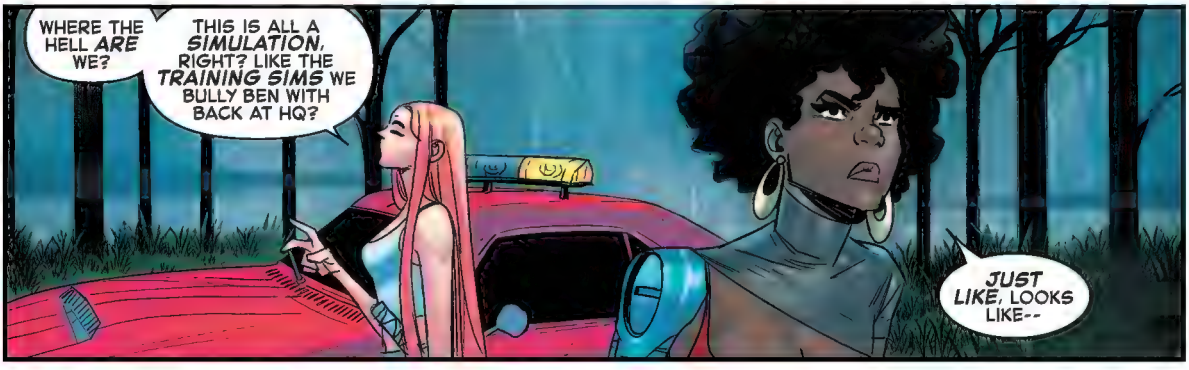
SPECIAL DELIVERY, BABY.
KBOOM
UH--
--MISTY--
"--IT'S COMING THIS WAY!"
SCREEEEE
RRIP
UH
OH

VRRRRP
SLEEEEE
Beyond Corporation Pocket Battlefield
(SKU BY239847, patent pending)




"POCKET BATTLEFIELD.
"EFFECTIVE THREAT RADIUS: THREE METERS."
THAT WASN'T THREE METERS!
LOOKS LIKE CONTAINING OBSIDIAN STAR WITH MAXINE'S GIZMO DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT.

WORKED A LITTLE TOO WELL.
WE ENDED UP GETTING OURSELVES CONTAINED ALONG WITH IT.


WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?
THIS IS ALL A SIMULATION, RIGHT? LIKE THE TRAINING SIMS WE BULLY BEN WITH BACK AT HQ?
JUST LIKE, LOOKS LIKE--

WELCOME TO YOUR BABY, BABY.
AVENGERS MURDER-MANSION.

YO, THIS IS GOING TO SUCK.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
COME ON, COME ON.
MAN, I DID A REALLY GOOD JOB ON THIS.
MAXINE? MAXINE!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU GET US INTO?!
PLEASE KEEP CALM, MS. KNIGHT.
AS BEST AS OUR TEAM CAN FIGURE IT, OBSIDIAN STAR IS POWERED BY AN EXOTIC ENERGY SOURCE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ENERGY SOURCE IS INTERFACING IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WAY WITH THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD, WHICH HAS SEPARATE EXOTIC TECHNOLOGY AT ITS BASE.
"EXOTIC" BETTER NOT MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS--
EXTRATERRESTRIAL, MS. KNIGHT.
THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD IS BUILT FROM RETRIEVED KREE TECHNOLOGY.
SO TURN IT OFF.
IMPOSSIBLE, UNFORTUNATELY.
IN ORDER TO COLLAPSE THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD AND THE SIMULATION, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND OBSIDIAN STAR AND REMOVE ITS ENERGY SOURCE.
OF COURSE WE ARE.
I HAVE EVERY FAITH IN YOU.
BEEP
MA'AM? WHAT'S THE PLAN?
IS THAT A JOKE? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU THINK WE DO HERE?
RECORD THE DATA. THIS IS A SUPERB FIELD TEST.

...SO IT'S NOT A SIM?
DO I LOOK LIKE AN ULTRAPHYSICIST? BUT IF THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD IS DRAWING POWER FROM OBSIDIAN STAR'S ENERGY SOURCE, I DON'T THINK WE'RE DEALING WITH JUST HOLOS ANYMORE, TOTO.
THIS ALL FEELS VERY REAL.
SUPER.
DAUGHTERS?
DAUGHTERS.
BOOM

ughgrrr...
EVENING, MADAMS-- WELLLLCOME TO THE AVENNNNGERS MURDERRRRR-MANS--
KA-
POW!!!
Beyond Corporation KA-POW!!! Hi-Explosive Ammunition (SKU BY2394720).
ONE DOWN. LET'S FIND THAT WEIRD CRITTER AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

Beyond Corporation Sanjuro Vibro-katana (SKU BY340129)
Beyond Corporation Bug-Off Hi-Intensity Insecticide (SKU BY123094)
Beyond Corporation Whoops! All Scorpions! (SKU BY206Y392)
Beyond Corporation Hamm-R-Hand (SKU BY0293847)
Beyond Corporation Out, Damned Spot! Stain Remover (SKU BY06958473)
(Ditto)

KIAI!
SCCHLKK
HUFF
HUFF
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE USING A BEYOND SWORD.
YOU THINK--
HUFF
YOU THINK I'D TAKE MY GOOD SWORD ON A GIG FOR MAXINE?
THING'S LIKE A THOUSAND YEARS OLD. YOU CAN'T JUST GET A REPLACEMENT OFF eBAY.
WE'VE BEEN CARVING UP AVENGERS FOR AGES.
BUT WHERE'S OBSIDIAN STAR?
I DUNNO.
WAIT.
MAXINE SAID THAT OBSIDIAN STAR'S POWER SOURCE WAS INTERACTING WITH THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD.
LIKE SOME KIND OF FEEDBACK LOOP OR SOMETHING.
YEAH, SO?

THAT MEAN'S OBSIDIAN STAR'S NOT TRAPPED IN THE SIM, LIKE *WE* ARE.
OBSIDIAN STAR *IS* THE SIM.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN *MEAN--?*
IT'S A HAUNTED HOUSE.
DO THE MATH.
☠☠☠☠☠
☠☠☠☠☠

YAAAAAAAAAAA!
YOU GOT ANY MORE BEYOND TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE?
JUST ONE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW...
WARNING
DON'T
NO
DO NOT
USE IT! WE'RE DEAD MEAT EITHER WAY!
KILL THE HOUSE BEFORE IT KILLS US!
OKAY.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, GIRL.
I'M BUDDHIST!
BUDDHISTS SAY PRAYERS, COLLEEN.

Beyond Corporation
DO NOT USE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
Antimatter Bomb (not for mass market [yet])

WOOF!
NOW THAT WAS A HELL OF A KICK.
YOU DIDN'T THINK TO JUST CHUCK THAT THING THROUGH THE DOOR FROM THE GET-GO?
GIRL, IT WAS AN ANTIMATTER BOMB.
IT WAS, BY DEFINITION, A WEAPON OF LAST RESORT.
PFF.
WIMP.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHOULD I CUT IT OUT?
NAH.
I THINK FOR A SITUATION LIKE THIS...
...YOU GOT TO BE HANDS-ON.
SQUELCH

AND THEN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "AND THEN"?
WEREN'T YOU RECORDING EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD?
IT TURNS OUT THAT DETONATING A PROTOTYPE ANTIMATTER BOMB PLAYS MERRY HELL WITH SENSITIVE ELECTRONICS.
WE LOST CONTACT WITH YOU AFTER THAT.
WHERE IS THE OBSIDIAN STAR POWER SOURCE?
WHAT POWER SOURCE?
MISTY WAS DIGGING AROUND INSIDE THAT THING'S CHEST FOR AGES. IT WAS GROTESQUE. SHE DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING.
NOTHING?

"NOTHING."
"NOT A DAMN THING."

SO, AFTER MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PROTOTYPE WEAPONS DESTROYED...
...YOU BROUGHT BACK... NOTHING?
IS THAT AN ACCUSATION, MAXINE?
AN ALLEGATION?
AN INDICTMENT, EVEN?
AFTER ALL, YOU SENT US OUT THERE TO PROTECT PEOPLE, RIGHT? TAKE DOWN THE BADDIE, SAVE THE GOODIES?
SURELY NOT JUST TO GET YOU AN EXOTIC POWER SOURCE?
THOUGHT SO.
I'M TAKING A SICK DAY, BY THE WAY.
I'M TAKING TWO.
MENTAL HEALTH.
LATER DAYS!

A SICK DAY.
At an undisclosed location.
YEAH...
...I THINK I KNOW JUST WHERE THIS NEEDS TO GO.

#75 WEBHEAD VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON

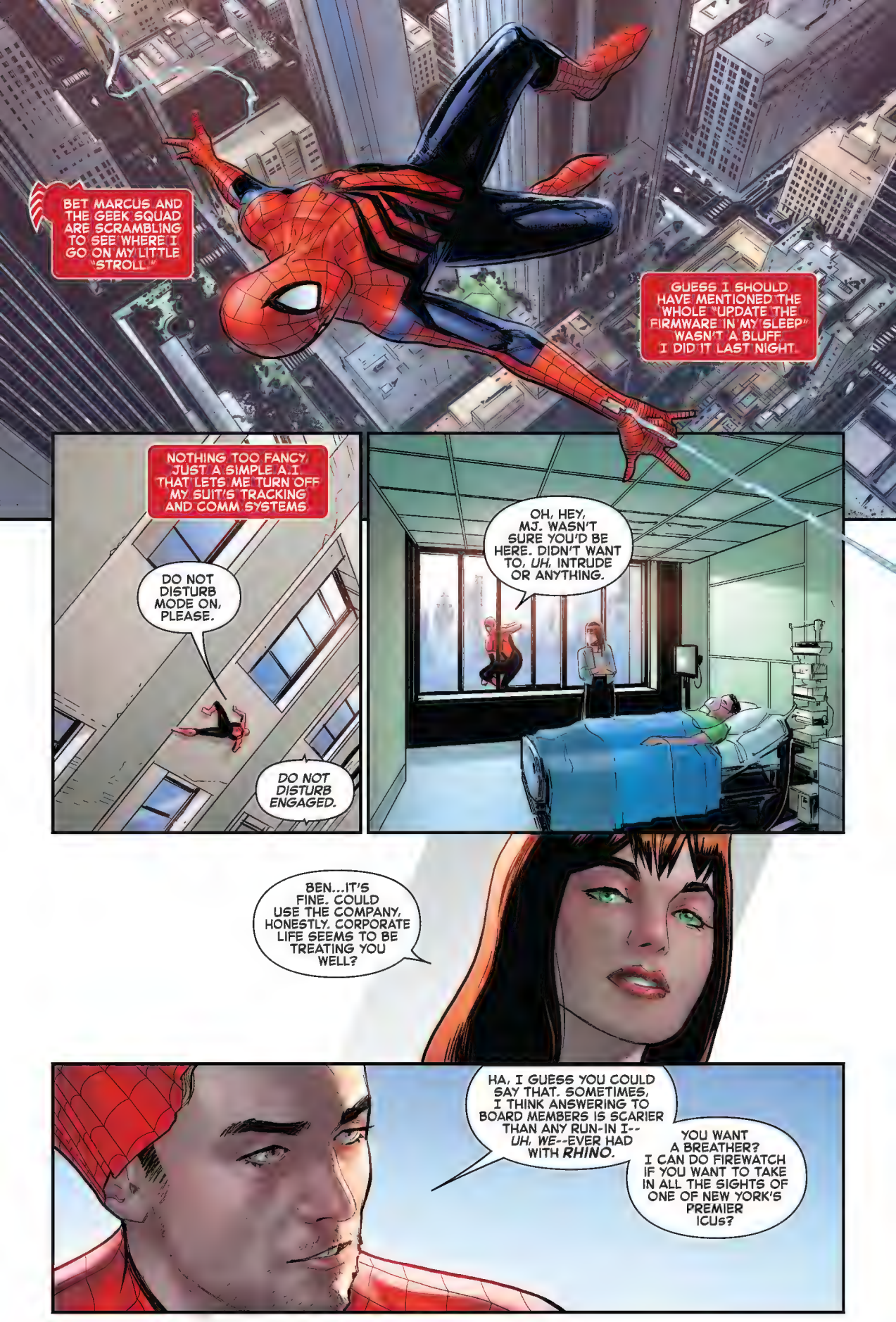
BEYOND CORPORATION

YES, STREAMLINING THE VACATION PROCESS IS A *MUST!* IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WORK-LIFE BALANCE, YOU KNOW? HANG ON A SEC--
HECK OF A WAY TO END OUR FIRST WEEK ON THE JOB! TO *BEYOND!*
I FRIGGIN' *LOVE* THIS JOB!
OKAY, BE COOL, BUT I SNAGGED SOME OF THOSE NEW HANGOVER PILLS THE TEAM IN PHARMACEUTICALS ARE R&D-ING, SO DRINK AWAY!
THROW ONE UP FOR THE 'GRAM.
I FRIGGIN' *LOVE* THIS BAR!
CATCH Y'ALL MONDAY!
SEE YA, DOUG!
I FRIGGIN' LOVE THAT FOOL, DOUG!
HICCUP

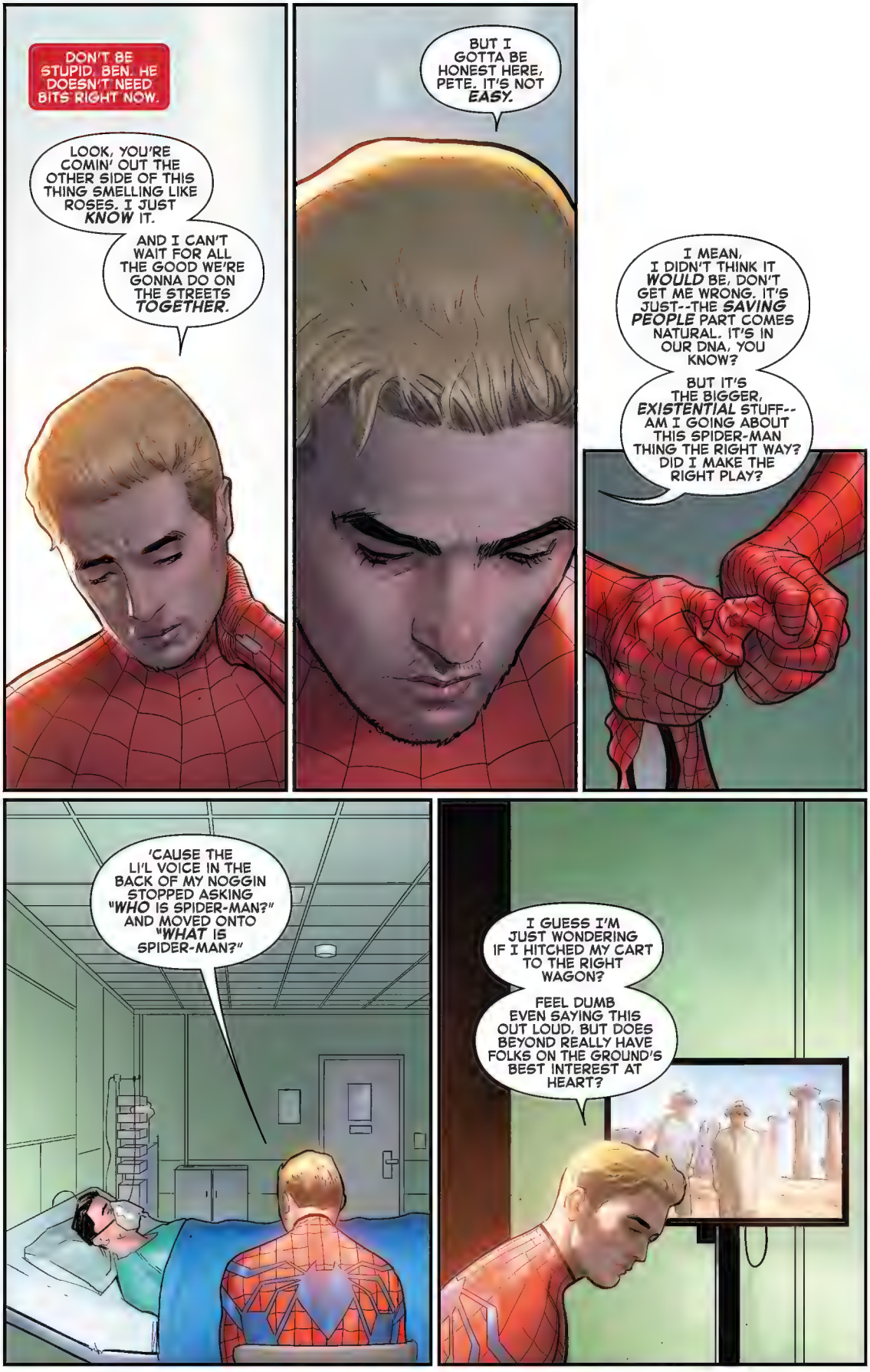
DOUG CAME FROM SOMEWHERE BACK IN HER LONG AGOOOOO. THE SENTIMENTAL FOOL DON'T SEE.
TRYING H--}HICCUP{--ARD TO RECREATE WHAT HAD }HICCUP{ YET TO BE CREATEDDDDD. ONCE IN HER LIFE, SHE MUSTERS A SMILEEEEE, FOR DOUG'S NOSTALGIC TALE.
NEVER COMING NEAR WHAT DOUG WANTED TO SAY. ONLY TO REEAALIZEEE IT NEVER REALLY WAS--
HUH?
OH MY GOD!

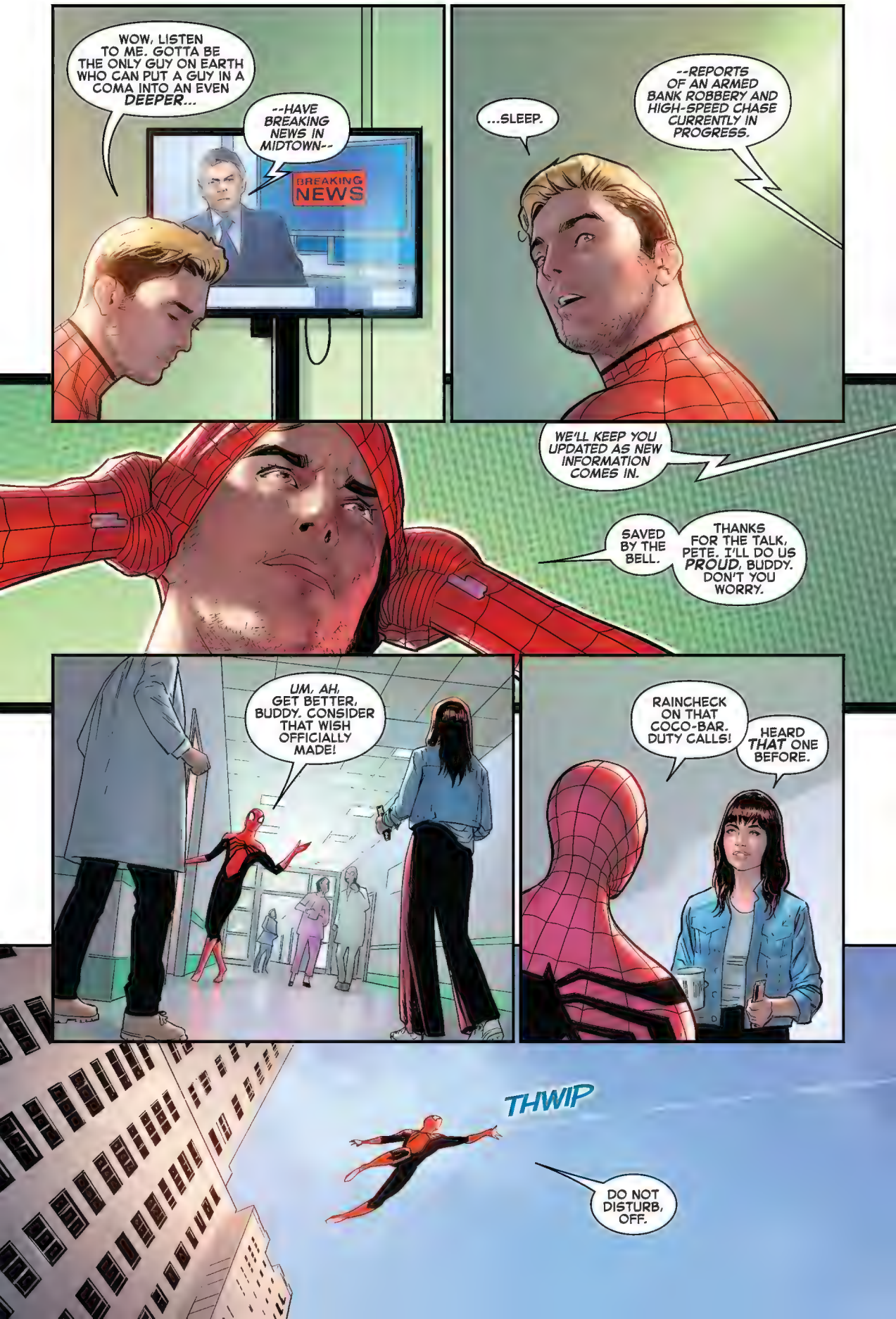
KRRZZT!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, DOC?!
'CAUSE I DON'T THINK A FIRMWARE UPDATE SHOULD TAKE THIS LONG!
AFTER THE MORBIUS INCIDENT SOME UPGRADES WERE TO BE EXPECTED.
OF COURSE IF OUR NEW HIRE WASN'T A NO-SHOW THIS MORNING, THINGS WOULD BE MOVING MUCH FASTER.
NOT SAYING YOUR JOB ISN'T IMPORTANT, JOE, BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS I'LL GET BIT BY A VAMPIRE TWICE IN THE SAME MONTH?
DID YOU TRY TURNING IT OFF AND THEN ON AGAIN?
THIS IS PRECISELY THE TYPE OF CONCERN BEYOND PAYS PEOPLE TO HAVE. YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT AND TAKE YOUR DUTIES A BIT MORE SERIOUSLY.
I THINK I'VE MADE IT CLEAR HOW SERIOUSLY I TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITIES. IT'S WHY I'D RATHER BE DOWN THERE HELPING--INSTEAD OF SITTING THROUGH ANOTHER TECH-TALK.
I'M A BIT OF A GENIUS MYSELF, IN CASE YOU FORGOT. I CAN DO A FIRMWARE UPDATE IN MY SLEEP.
WE'RE RIGHT HERE, MAN...

IN CASE *YOU* FORGOT, BEYOND AND ITS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE INVESTED A *CONSIDERABLE* AMOUNT NOT ONLY INTO YOUR AND JANINE'S REHABILITATION, BUT ALSO INTO EQUIPPING YOU WITH THE BEST TECHNOLOGY, INTEL, AND SUPPORT STAFF MONEY CAN BUY.
SO THAT WHEN SPIDER-MAN IS OUT THERE, YOU'RE REPRESENTING BEYOND'S INTERESTS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT.
"BEYOND'S INTERESTS"? I MUST HAVE MISHEARD YOU.
MY UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ARRANGEMENT IS THAT JUST BECAUSE I'M SPIDER-MAN AND WORK FOR BEYOND DOESN'T MEAN THEY *OWN* ME.
I'M MY *OWN* MAN, MARCUS. MY OWN *SPIDER-MAN.*
BEN, I--
YOU CHOSE ME OVER THE OTHER GUY BECAUSE I'M TOO DAMNED BULLHEADED AND STRONG-WILLED. *YOUR WORDS,* MARCUS.
YOU WANTED ME BECAUSE I HAVE MY OWN THOUGHTS, AND RIGHT NOW I'M THINKING MY JOB ISN'T TO HELP BEYOND LOOK GOOD-- IT'S TO *HELP PEOPLE.*
ACTUALLY BEN, IT'S *BOTH.*
HOPE YOU'RE NOT GOING TOO FAR--YOUR PATROL STARTS IN HALF AN HOUR!
I NEED TO CLEAR MY HEAD. WOULD HATE TO DISAPPOINT BEYOND WITH A BAD PERFORMANCE.


BET MARCUS AND THE GEEK SQUAD ARE SCRAMBLING TO SEE WHERE I GO ON MY LITTLE "STROLL."
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THE WHOLE "UPDATE THE FIRMWARE IN MY SLEEP" WASN'T A BLUFF. I DID IT LAST NIGHT.
NOTHING TOO FANCY. JUST A SIMPLE A.I. THAT LETS ME TURN OFF MY SUIT'S TRACKING AND COMM SYSTEMS.
DO NOT DISTURB MODE ON, PLEASE.
DO NOT DISTURB ENGAGED.
OH, HEY, MJ. WASN'T SURE YOU'D BE HERE. DIDN'T WANT TO, *UH*, INTRUDE OR ANYTHING.
BEN...IT'S FINE. COULD USE THE COMPANY, HONESTLY. CORPORATE LIFE SEEMS TO BE TREATING YOU WELL?
HA, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT. SOMETIMES, I THINK ANSWERING TO BOARD MEMBERS IS SCARIER THAN ANY RUN-IN I-- *UH*, *WE*--EVER HAD WITH ***RHINO***.
YOU WANT A BREATHER? I CAN DO FIREWATCH IF YOU WANT TO TAKE IN ALL THE SIGHTS OF ONE OF NEW YORK'S PREMIER ICUs?

I ALREADY HIT MOST OF THE VENDING MACHINES IN THE EAST WING.
MAYBE I'LL LET MY HAIR DOWN AND TRY THE ONES BY THE NURSES' STATION? I HEAR THAT'S WHERE THEY HIDE THE GOOD STUFF.
DON'T GO ANYWHERE, OKAY, TIGER?
WANT ANYTHING?
I WOULDN'T SNEEZE AT A COCO-BAR.
CARDS ON THE TABLE, YOU'VE DEFINITELY LOOKED BETTER, BUDDY.


DON'T BE STUPID, BEN. HE DOESN'T NEED BITS RIGHT NOW.
LOOK, YOU'RE COMIN' OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS THING SMELLING LIKE ROSES. I JUST KNOW IT.
AND I CAN'T WAIT FOR ALL THE GOOD WE'RE GONNA DO ON THE STREETS TOGETHER.
BUT I GOTTA BE HONEST HERE, PETE. IT'S NOT EASY.
I MEAN, I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE, DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S JUST--THE SAVING PEOPLE PART COMES NATURAL. IT'S IN OUR DNA, YOU KNOW?
BUT IT'S THE BIGGER, EXISTENTIAL STUFF-- AM I GOING ABOUT THIS SPIDER-MAN THING THE RIGHT WAY? DID I MAKE THE RIGHT PLAY?
'CAUSE THE LI'L VOICE IN THE BACK OF MY NOGGIN STOPPED ASKING "WHO IS SPIDER-MAN?" AND MOVED ONTO "WHAT IS SPIDER-MAN?"
I GUESS I'M JUST WONDERING IF I HITCHED MY CART TO THE RIGHT WAGON?
FEEL DUMB EVEN SAYING THIS OUT LOUD. BUT DOES BEYOND REALLY HAVE FOLKS ON THE GROUND'S BEST INTEREST AT HEART?


WOW, LISTEN TO ME. GOTTA BE THE ONLY GUY ON EARTH WHO CAN PUT A GUY IN A COMA INTO AN EVEN DEEPER...
--HAVE BREAKING NEWS IN MIDTOWN--
BREAKING NEWS
...SLEEP.
--REPORTS OF AN ARMED BANK ROBBERY AND HIGH-SPEED CHASE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.
WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED AS NEW INFORMATION COMES IN.
SAVED BY THE BELL.
THANKS FOR THE TALK, PETE. I'LL DO US PROUD, BUDDY. DON'T YOU WORRY.
UM, AH, GET BETTER, BUDDY. CONSIDER THAT WISH OFFICIALLY MADE!
RAINCHECK ON THAT COCO-BAR. DUTY CALLS!
HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE.
THWIP
DO NOT DISTURB, OFF.

KZZZRT
--JUST GET ME THROUGH! WAIT--BEN? WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN? WE KEPT GETTING SENT TO VOICEMAIL.
WHICH WAS A BIT OF A SURPRISE FOR OUR ENGINEERING TEAM CONSIDERING THAT'S NOT A FEATURE THAT CAME WITH YOUR SUIT!
SORRY, MARCUS. I'M EN ROUTE NOW.
THIS IS A JOB, REMEMBER? THERE'RE PEOPLE OUT THERE COUNTING ON US. I'M GREAT AT MY JOB SO YOU CAN BE EXCELLENT AT YOURS.
HELP ME, HELP YOU, HELP THEM.
UH, DUDE...
"YEAH, OKAY, YOU GOT ME."
OMC
ANYWAY, GOT A DAY TO SAVE, MARCUS. TALK SOON!
DUDE, DUDE!

SORRY, FELLAS.

JUST TRYNA'--

--STOP SOME ROBBERS--

THWIP THWIP

--AND DO--

THWIP THWIP

--A LI'L THWIPPIN' 'N' QUIPPIN' HERE.

OOF!

KRAK

UH-OH! OUT OF THE WAY!

AHHHHH!!

COMING IN HOT, KID!
WHAA--!
THUD

NICE TO MEET YA. I'M SPIDER-MAN.
THAT WAS PRETTY SCARY, HUH? BRIGHT SIDE, YOU CAN TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS YOU MET SPIDER-MAN.
I CAN?
ABSOLUTELY, THEY'LL LOVE IT!

THWIP
BEEP! BEEP!
THREE CALLS IN ONE DAY IS A BIT MUCH, MARCUS.

THWIP
THOUGHT THE SUBTEXT OF OUR LAST CONVO WAS "I'M WILLING TO BE A TEAM PLAYER." I MEAN, I REALLY LAID IT ON THICK.
YOU DID AN INCREDIBLE JOB, BEN. I'M HONESTLY THRILLED YOU RESPONDED SO WELL TO THIS PARTICULAR TIER OF CRIME.
I'LL SEE ABOUT ADDING MORE STREET-LEVEL ACTIVITIES TO THE PATROL-ALGORITHM. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED.
BEYOND BOARD MEMBER ANDREW AIRS PING'D SECURITY ABOUT A POSSIBLE BREAK-IN. DOORS TO HIS PENTHOUSE ARE IN LOCKDOWN MODE, AND YOU'RE OUR FASTEST WAY IN.
I DON'T KNOW IF BABYSITTING BILLIONAIRE BOARD MEMBERS MEETS MY DEFINITION OF "DOING GOOD OUT THERE."
SOMETIMES THE "LITTLE GUY ON THE GROUND" IS A BIT LESS LITTLE THAN EXPECTED. AIRS HAS PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT HIM TOO.
OKAY, CONSIDER MY HEARTSTRINGS OFFICIALLY PULLED!
ETA: FOUR MINUTES.

SO THIS IS HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES?
I DIDN'T KNOW CEILINGS COULD VAULT SO HIGH!
THEN AGAIN, MY NEW PLACE IS PRETTY EPIC.
UGGGH... HELLO? SOMEBODY...AGH THERE?! PLEASE... I NEED HELP...
DON'T WORRY, UH, BOSS... HELP IS HERE!
SPIDER-MAN? I'M...FEELING... DIZZY... HURRY!
STAY CALM, ANDREW. WE'LL GET YOU TAKEN CARE OF IN NO TIME!
LUCKILY, THE MAN ON THE CASE IS BEYOND'S FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD...
...SPIDER-MAN?
ANDREW? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

YOU LOOK DEAD, ANDREW.
THEN WHO THE HELL WAS CALLING...
...MY NAME?!
KA-KOOM!

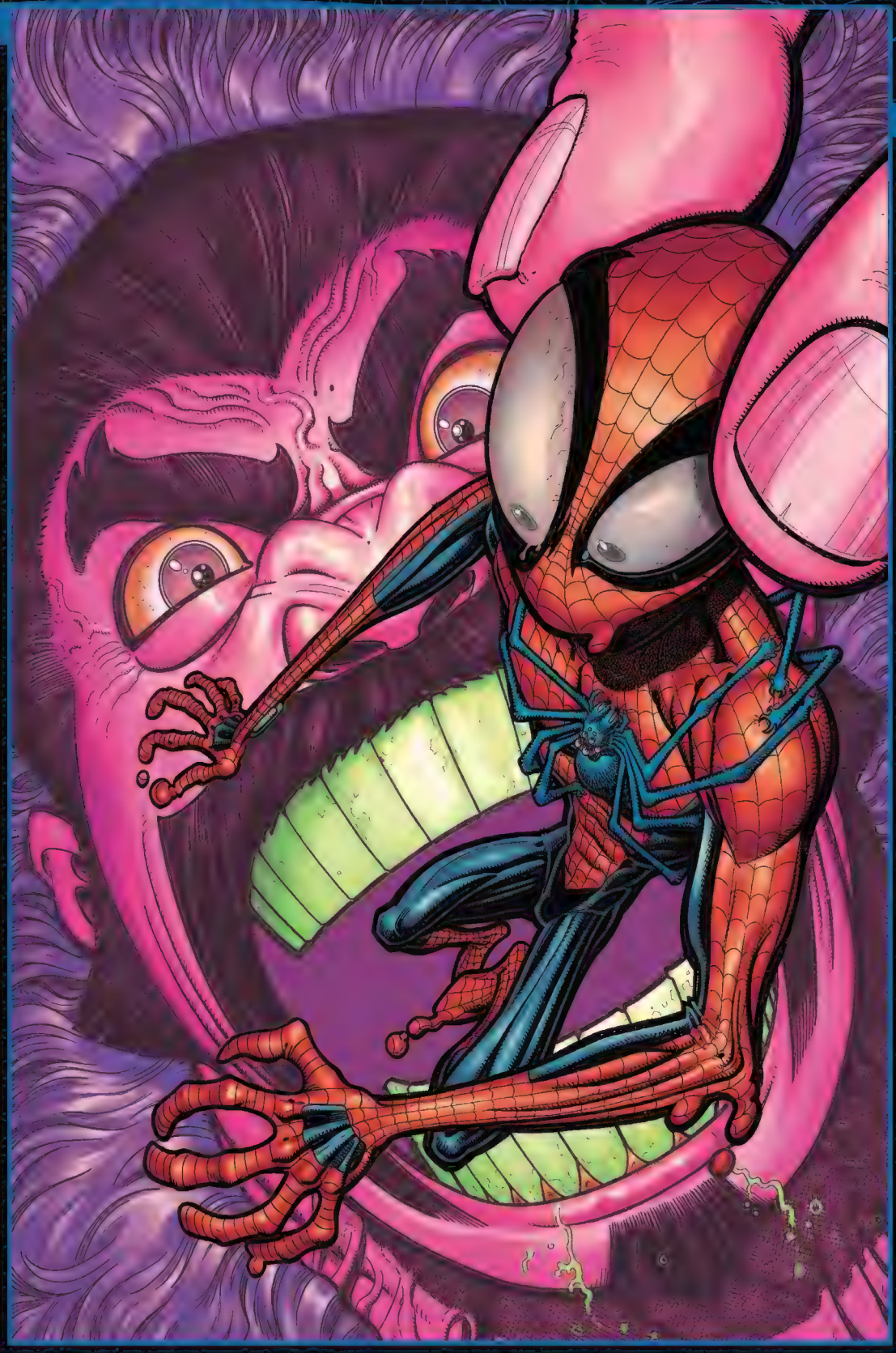
IMPACT FOAM TOOK MOST OF THE BLAST BUT NOT ALL. HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S JUST BEEN USED AS HULK'S PERSONAL SPEEDBAG. GOTTA GET ON MY FEET.
I'VE LEARNED THE CALLS OF A THOUSAND ANIMALS, SPIDER.
AND I KNOW YOURS... THE BROKEN MOANS OF A DYING MAN.
KRAVEN, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE-- UGGH!
WGSHHH
IT IS A GRAND NIGHT, FOR KRAVEN THE HUNTER WISHES TO BESTOW A GREAT GIFT UPON YOU!
WHOP!
DEADPOOL, WOLVERINE, AND NOW YOU. I BRING YOU THE OFFERING OF MY GREATEST HUNT! A HUNT OF CLEANSING!
LUCKY SHOT.

JUST NEED TIME TO CLEAR MY HEAD.
CAREFUL WHERE YOU SWING THAT THING, BUDDY!
I HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU HAD COME TO HEEL UNDER CORPORATE MASTERS.
I FIRST THOUGHT IT AN AFFRONT, BUT THEN I REALIZED IT WAS THE PERFECT MEANS OF BAITING THE WATERS.
WSSSH
GOOD. KEEP TALKING. STARTING TO GET MY HEAD BACK IN THE GAME.
OH DAMN, THAT'S WILD. YOU CRAZY FOR THIS ONE, K.
THWIP
THWIP
AND IT'S BECOMING VERY CLEAR THAT THIS TRAP WAS WELL PLANNED. TOO MANY WEAPONS SCATTERED ABOUT.
A FEW PENCIL PUSHERS GO MISSING AND THEY SEND OUT THEIR GREAT CHAMPION TO SAVE THEM.
Y-YOU REALLY THINK I'M GREAT?
YOU HAVE GREAT SPIRIT, SPIDER. I HAVE MISSED IT. TO MAKE LIGHT OF SUCH HEAVY WORK IS SOMETHING I DO GREATLY ADMIRE.
GUUUH!
KRAK
SLOPPY! LED YOU RIGHT INTO IT! COLLEEN'S GONNA BE PISSED.

YOU'VE REALLY DONE A NUMBER ON THIS PLACE, KRAVEN. GOT ME THINKING WE SHOULD GET SOME FRESH AIR!
THERE!
CRASH!
THWIP
WHEW, OKAY. LET'S START FROM THE TOP.
AGAIN?!
BOOBY-TRAPPED!
AGGH, DAMMIT!

SLAM
OOOF!
FEEL LIGHT-HEADED. NOT BLOOD LOSS. SOMETHING ELSE. OH NO...
WARNXXXING-- SUITXXXBREACH-- UNKNXXXOWN TOXXXINS-- ENTERED BLOXXXOD STRXXXEAM.
WHAT THE HELL?!
DART TIPS MUST HAVE BEEN LACED WITH THOSE WEIRD HERBS KRAVEN'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT.
FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS
FIND THE HORIZON, BEN. LOCK ONTO IT. SETTLE IN. ORIENT YOURSELF. THIS ISN'T REAL--
MY GOD.
REJOICE, SPIDER!

FOR YOUR GREAT AWAKENING HAS BEGUN!



REJOICE, SPIDER! FOR YOUR GREAT AWAKENING HAS BEGUN! SEE THE WORLD AS IT TRULY IS, AND LET IT AWAKEN THE FIRE INSIDE!
SYXTEMX-KZZT-FAXXUREX--
VISIONS GETTING MORE INTENSE. SUIT'S SO BUSTED, NO TELLING WHEN THINGS'LL KICK IN.
SPIDEY-SENSE IN OVERDRIVE. MOVE, BEN. YOU NEED TO BE MOVING!
EMBRACE THIS OFFERING. LOOK INTO THE ABYSS AND KILL WHAT STARES BACK! FOR THE TRUTH WILL BE MUCH SCARIER!
THWIP
EQUILIBRIUM... GONE... CAN'T... THINK...
BLXXXOOD OXXXYGEN LEXELS DRXXXPPING.
M-MIND... GETTING... SOFT...

YOU SEEM TO BE LOSING YOUR GRACE, SPIDER. PERHAPS THE CORPORATE LEASH FASTENED TO YOUR NECK HAS MADE YOU WEAK?
CAN'T... FOCUS... SINKING? AM...I... SINKING?
COLD... THIS PLACE... IS...COLD...
NO! DON'T GET LOST, PETER!
I MEAN, BEN! I AM BEN! I AM SPIDER-MAN!
THWP
I KNOW WHO I AM! I KNOW THAT I HAVE PURPOSE!

NO. I'M NOT SPIDER-MAN. I'M NOT A MAN. I'M A *SHELL.*

DRINK IN THE FIRST **TASTES** OF THIS BURNING TRUTH-- AN EPIPHANY. I BRING YOU THE HONOR OF BEARING WITNESS...

I AM A BLANK CANVAS. A ROUGH SKETCH OF GREATER MEN.

...TO A BAPTISM OF YOUR METTLE. SO YOU MAY REVERT TO YOUR ***TRUEST,*** NATURAL FORM. FREE FROM THE **SHACKLES** OF CAPITALIST HANDLERS!

BLOXXXOD LEXXVEXXLS CRIXXXTICAL. SYSXXXTEMS FAIXXXLING.
JUST... NEED...TO... REST...
WARXXXING-- KZZT
AFTER...REST... EVERYTHING... WILL BE...FINE...
I-IMPXXXACT... IMMEN-I-XXXT.
KAKHUNK!

LISTEN WELL, SPIDER... I WILL MAKE YOU WHOLE AGAIN...
IT'S DARK.
...OUR TRIAL...SOON BEGINS...
SO DARK.
...AND THE HUNT IS RENEWED.
JA NINE?

WILL SOMEBODY GET ME EYES ON BEN, PLEASE?!
HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY THINK I'D STICK MY NECK OUT FOR THE GUY WHO GHOSTS ME THREE TIMES IN ONE DAY?!
SIR, THIS JUST CAME IN.
THE COMMS AND LOCATOR WEREN'T TURNED OFF. THEY'RE GONE. WENT DARK ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE EXPLOSION AT AIRS'.
DAMMIT. THIS IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF BEING EXCELLENT, BEN.
KEEP THIS AS FAR AWAY FROM MAXINE FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN, UNDERSTAND? IF THIS ISSUE ISN'T RESOLVED SOON, WE'RE GOING TO BE THE ONES WISHING WE'D DISAPPEARED.
HOW MANY ROCKS AND HARD PLACES CAN ONE COUPLE PUT ME BETWEEN?
Janine
BUZZZ! BUZZZ!
WHAT NOW?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO BEN, MARCUS? AND DON'T FEED ME ANY CORPORATE DOUBLESPEAK.
JANINE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN. BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT--

THAT'S #$%&, MARCUS! ONE MINUTE YOUR SPIDER-I.T. NERDS ARE SWARMING OUR APARTMENT REPLACING FIBER-OPTIC CABLES, AND THE NEXT, THEY'RE ALL RUSHING OUT MURMURING ABOUT A "CODE BLUE." JUST WHAT THE HELL HAS BEN GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO?
I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT WHEN YOU CAME ON BOARD WITH BEN, HE SIGNED A ROBUST NDA AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.
AND I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT I'M THE ONE WHO'S DONE TIME AND KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HERSELF.
SO IF I HAVE TO DROP-KICK YOU IN THE CHEST TO PROTECT THE MAN I LOVE, THEN I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR THIS TINY GINGER TO TAP-DANCE THE CHEERS THEME ALL OVER YOUR STERNUM.
I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL DO IT, MARCUS.
AND I SEE YOU!
COME ON! COME ON! COME ON!
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE CABLE!
LOOK, THERE'S A SITUATION CURRENTLY UNFOLDING, BUT WE'RE HANDLING IT. WHEN I KNOW MORE, YOU'LL KNOW MORE.
BEYOND'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST ARE ON IT, JANINE.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.

UPDATES, PEOPLE?
CLICK!
SORRY, SIR. BUT WE'RE FLYING BLIND UNTIL THE SUIT IS BACK ONLINE.
BUZZZ! BUZZZ!
YOU GONNA GET THAT OR...?
JANINE, I ASSURE YOU THAT I'LL GET BACK TO YOU WHEN I CAN, BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!
WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW, MR. MOMPLAISIR.
IF I WERE MS. GODBE, THAT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. LUCKILY, WHEN I HAVE QUESTIONS, THEY ARE ANSWERED.
MAXINE, MA'AM, LET ME FILL YOU IN...

UGGGH.
FOURTEEN FINGERS. GREAT. STILL POISONED.
SO THAT'S STILL HAPPENING.
WOUNDS ARE COMPLETELY CLEANED AND STITCHED UP? THAT'S...UNEXPECTED.
NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE. AND ALSO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE HERE IS--
YO, HE'S FINALLY AWAKE!

IT'S THE BIG MAN HIMSELF! THIS IS KINDA COOL!
I'M DOUG SIRAVANTA! THAT'S ADAOBI AND BASIR. WE'VE BEEN HELD UP HERE A FEW DAYS.
ONE MINUTE, I'M CLEANING THE ALGAE TANKS, AND THE NEXT, I'M BEING TOSSED IN HERE.
HECK OF A WAY TO START OUR FIRST WEEK.
ALGAE TANKS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JANINE?
UH, IT'S ADAOBI. BUT THIS IS A BEYOND CULTIVATION PLATFORM.
BASICALLY, A BIG OL' ALGAE AND SEAWEED FARM. IT'S WHERE WE GET THE STUFF TO MAKE THE BEYAWN BURGERS!
IT'S MOSTLY AUTOMATED. THEY ONLY KEEP A FEW OF US HERE TO RESET AND REPAIR THE BOTS.
YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT, MAN. NO OFFENSE.
NONE TAKEN, GIANT TURTLE. I'VE BEEN DRUGGED.
OH YEAH? ACTUALLY, I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING FOR THAT.
PUT IT IN HERE SOMEWHERE... OH, HERE!
FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION. SUPPOSED TO BE A CURE-ALL FOR MIGRAINES AND HEAD COLDS.
I USE IT FOR, UH, HANGOVERS. SAME BALLPARK.
"SAME BALLPARK" IS DOING A LOT OF HEAVY LIFTING RIGHT NOW, BUT LET'S GIVE IT A SPIN.
THE GREAT SPIDER HAS ARISEN AND FOUND MY OFFERING. PLEASE, JOIN ME TOPSIDE.
ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT CHOIR OF COYOTES? GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. THANKS, GIANT TURTLE!

WHOA...
TELL ME, IS IT A WOLF I FACE? OR MERELY A DOMESTICATED LAPDOG?
TOTO, I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE NOT IN MANHATTAN ANYMORE.
YOU WERE ONCE A PREY WORTHY OF MY SKILL--MY GIFT! BUT BEYOND HAS PERVERTED THAT HONOR.
YOU WERE A CREATURE UNBURDENED BY CAPTIVITY OR MODERNITY. BUT YOU HAVE BEEN BROKEN.
AND THIS WEAKNESS NOW REFLECTS ON ME.
TWO AMBUSHES IN ONE DAY IS A BIT MUCH, BUDDY. MAYBE WE TRY USING OUR WORDS?
KOOOMP
WOULD REALLY LOVE FOR THAT PILL TO KICK IN!
IT IS WHY I HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THIS MONUMENT TO YOUR CORPORATE MASTERS.
THWP
THWP
DYING TO SEE YOU STICK THE LANDING ON THIS PREAMBLE.
TECHNOLOGY, PROFITS, "INNOVATION"--TOOLS TO DISTORT NATURE AND DESTROY THE SOUL OF MAN. WITH YOU AS THE UNKNOWING FOOL WIELDING THEM.
TELL ME THE FLAMES SPOKE THESE TRUTHS TO YOU, SPIDER.
WHOOF

BEYOND HAS THEIR ISSUES, BUT WHAT GIG DOESN'T? AT LEAST THEY DON'T KILL PEOPLE-- WAAAH!
KRACK!
GAAAGH!
THMP
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND, KRAVEN!
I AM WHAT I ALWAYS WAS! A HUNTER! AND I WILL MAKE SURE YOU'VE NO LONGER LOST YOUR WAY!
THWAP!
LEMME HELP GIVE YOU A LI'L DIRECTION THEN, BUDDY.

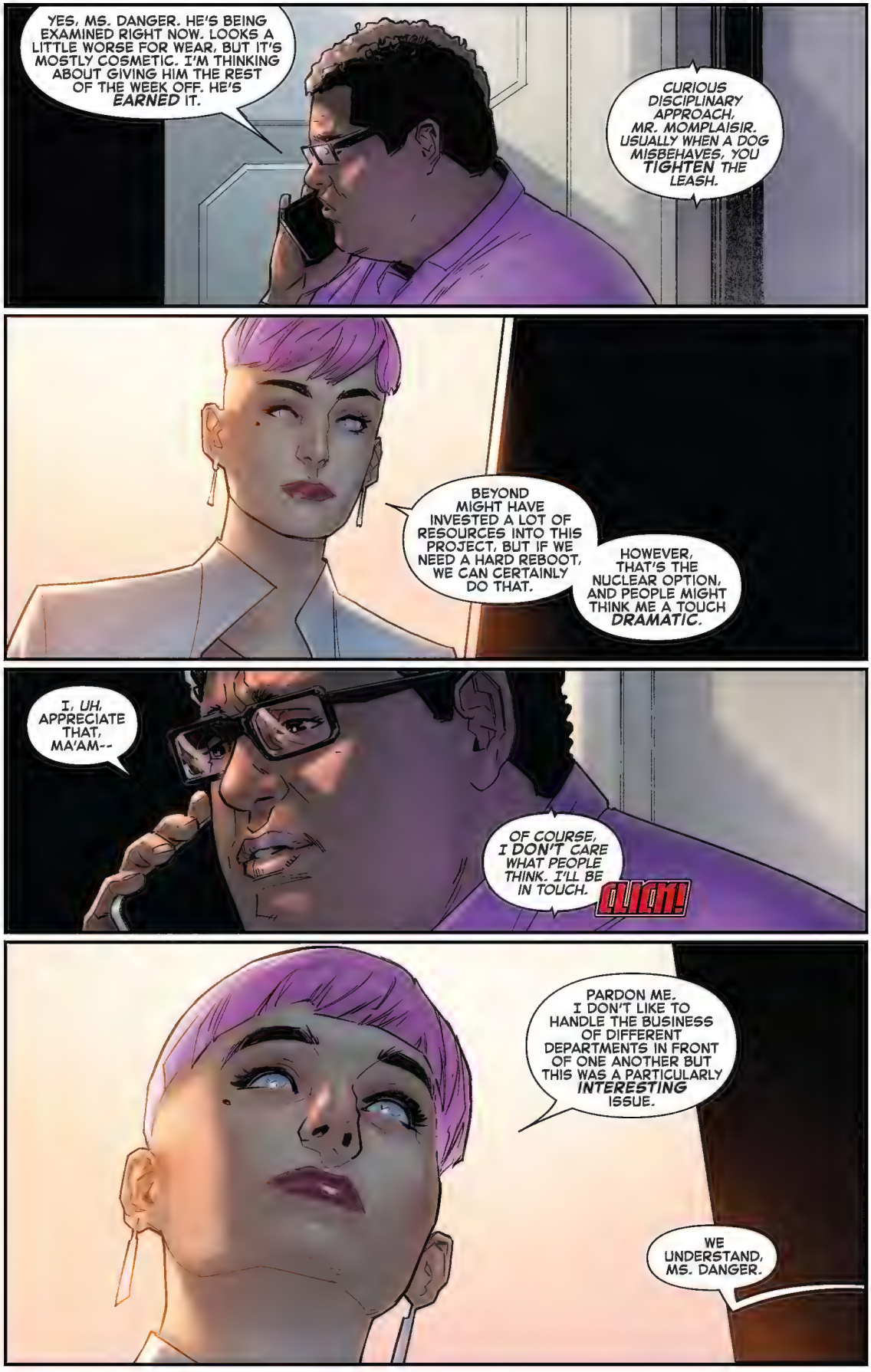
OH SHOOT, I GOT CRAZY SLAVIC HUNTER ALL OVER MY NEW BOOTS!
KRAK
KROOMP
UGGGH!
IN THIS BELLY OF TECHNOLOGICAL PERVERSION, WE BOTH SHALL BE REMADE WHOLE. HERE I WILL AWAKEN THE GREAT ANIMAL IN YOU, SPIDER!
WELL, YOU DEFINITELY AWOKE SOME OLD NIGHTMARES.
...BUT MY BOY DOUG, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE A GIANT TURTLE, GAVE ME A PILL THAT SHUT DOWN YOUR WEIRDO DRUGS.
AND, WHILE I AM IN GREAT PAIN, I'M FINALLY FEELING NORMAL.

WHEREAS I'M SHOCKED YOU CAN EVEN STAND AFTER A FALL LIKE THAT.
MY SPIRIT IS NOT BROKEN SO EASILY, SPIDER! IT IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS PLACE! FOR WHAT IT REPRESENTS.
A TOTEM TO HIGH-TECH CONVENIENCES THAT HAVE MADE MODERN MAN WEAK. THAT HAVE MADE YOU WEAK. THERE IS NO THRILL IN THE HUNT OF CAPTIVE ANIMALS. SO TELL ME, SPIDER...
...WHO HOLDS YOUR LEASH?!
WELL, I GUESS AT THE END OF THE DAY...
THOK
PFFT
...I'LL ALWAYS CHOOSE TO BE MY OWN SPIDER.
AND IF ALL IT TAKES TO BREAK YOUR GREAT WARRIOR SPIRIT IS A CUP OF ALGAE AND A CELL PHONE?
BAFT
THEN MAYBE YOU'RE NOT THE FEARSOME HUNTER YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE.
WAH-THUMP

SPLOSH
I...WILL... NOT..BE... TAMED...
...KRAVEN... WILL...REMAIN... UNBROKEN!
WAIT! DON'T!
CLICK
BA-BOOM!
MUCH AS I'D LIKE FOR THAT TO BE THE END OF THIS, THAT'S NOT THE LAST WE'LL SEE OF KRAVEN.
HEY, DOUG. IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, I GOT A REQUEST FOR YA, BUDDY.
I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO CONTACT LAND 'CAUSE I'M GONNA TAKE A LI'L BREATHER.

MARCUS, IF YOU DON'T PICK UP, I SWEAR THEY'LL BURY ME UNDER THE PRISON FOR WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU--
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS...
...BUT I LEFT MY PHONE ON SILENT.
BEN! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!
TRIPPY, DRUG-TIPPED, POISON DARTS-- CANNOT RECOMMEND.
I WAS WORRIED SICK! I KNOW I SIGNED UP FOR SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT'D BE LIKE THIS.
GOTTA TAKE THE GOOD WITH THE BAD, I GUESS? BESIDES, THE ONLY THING SCARIER THAN FACING DEATH IS PUTTING JANINE GODBE IN A BAD MOOD.
SO WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING BETWEEN THOSE TWO, I'M PICKING YOU EVERY TIME.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT.

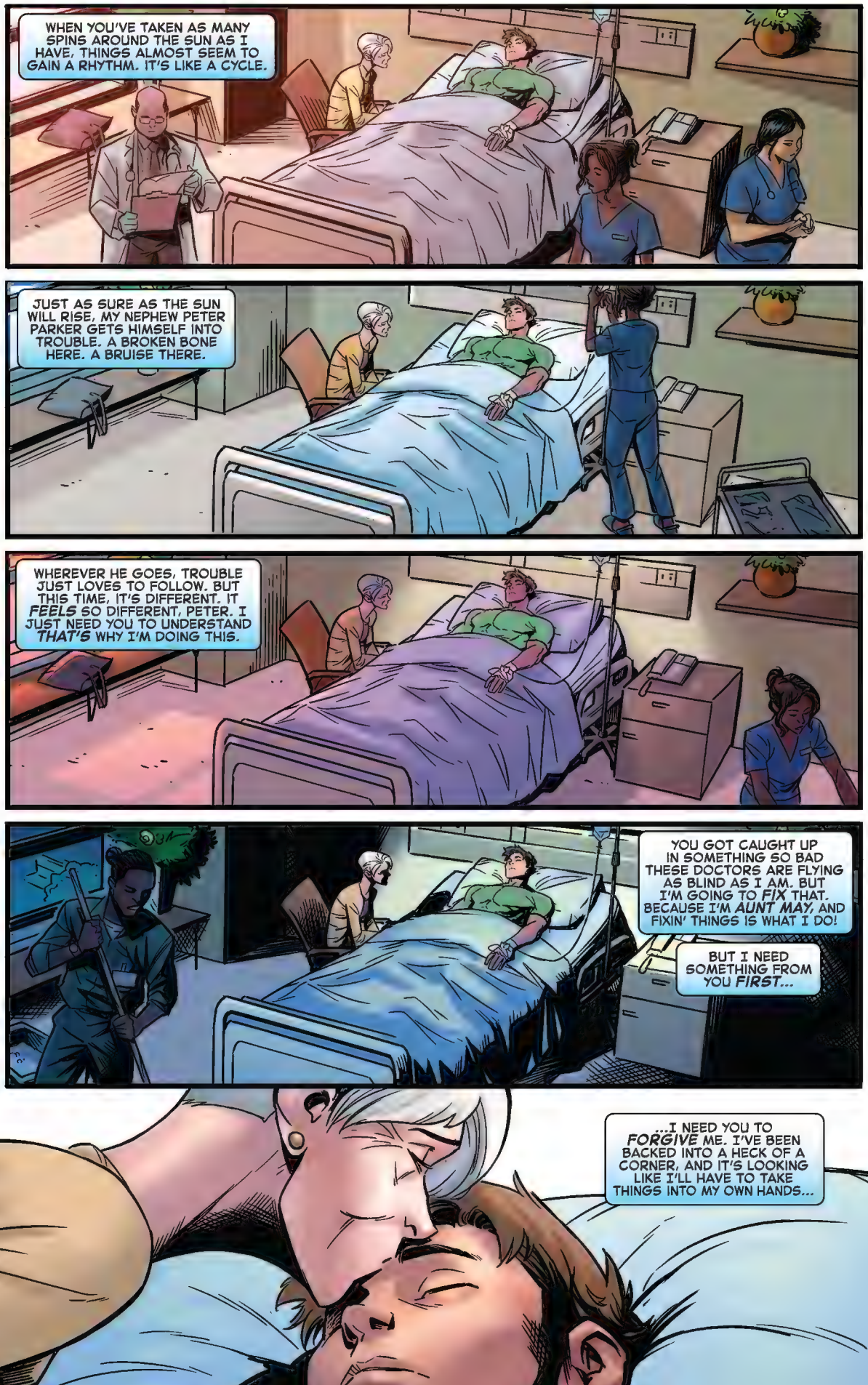
BUT WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF THAT SUIT AND GET THOSE WOUNDS LOOKED AT.
I NEED MED POD SIX PREPPED. SUBJECT HAS MULTIPLE ABRASIONS AND CUTS WITH POSSIBLE CONCUSSION AND BLOOD POISONING.
YES, MA'AM.
WE'LL HAVE HIM RIGHT BACK TO YOU, JANINE.
IT MAY NOT *LOOK* LIKE IT, BUT I'M *VERY* GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE IN ONE PIECE, BEN. YOU HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE LOSING A LOT OF SLEEP.
FAMILY TRAIT.
GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT, MARCUS, JUST HOW MUCH IS MY LIFE ABOUT TO SUCK?
MAXINE WAS LESS THAN PLEASED THAT YOU WERE OFF THE GRID *WILLINGLY*. BUT I WAS ABLE TO, *UH*, SPIN THE DETAILS A BIT ONCE KRAVEN BECAME KNOWN.
YOU DID THAT FOR *ME?* DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT *IN* YOU, MARCUS. I KNOW HOW TERRIFYING SHE CAN BE.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY THEY PAY ME GOOD MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR BAD SLEEP.
I HAVE TO MAKE A CALL, BUT WE'LL CONTINUE ONCE YOU'RE PATCHED UP. I THINK YOU'VE EARNED THE WEEK OFF.
THEY'VE BEEN USING THOSE PILLS TO DO *WHAT?!*
UH, WAS I NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT?

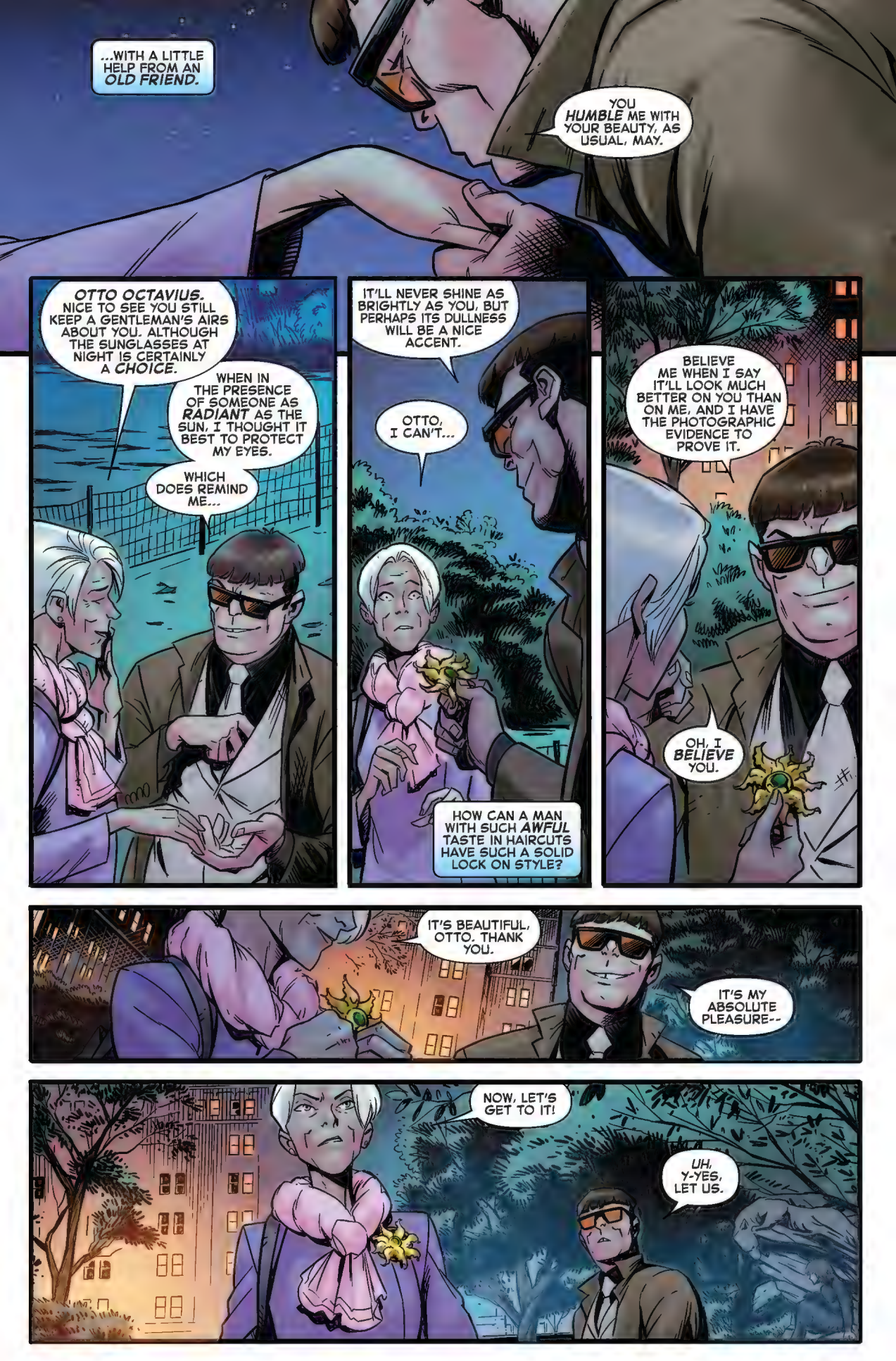

YES, MS. DANGER. HE'S BEING EXAMINED RIGHT NOW. LOOKS A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR, BUT IT'S MOSTLY COSMETIC. I'M THINKING ABOUT GIVING HIM THE REST OF THE WEEK OFF. HE'S EARNED IT.
CURIOUS DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, MR. MOMPLAISIR. USUALLY WHEN A DOG MISBEHAVES, YOU TIGHTEN THE LEASH.
BEYOND MIGHT HAVE INVESTED A LOT OF RESOURCES INTO THIS PROJECT, BUT IF WE NEED A HARD REBOOT, WE CAN CERTAINLY DO THAT.
HOWEVER, THAT'S THE NUCLEAR OPTION, AND PEOPLE MIGHT THINK ME A TOUCH DRAMATIC.
I, UH, APPRECIATE THAT, MA'AM--
OF COURSE, I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
CLICK!
PARDON ME. I DON'T LIKE TO HANDLE THE BUSINESS OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS IN FRONT OF ONE ANOTHER BUT THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY INTERESTING ISSUE.
WE UNDERSTAND, MS. DANGER.

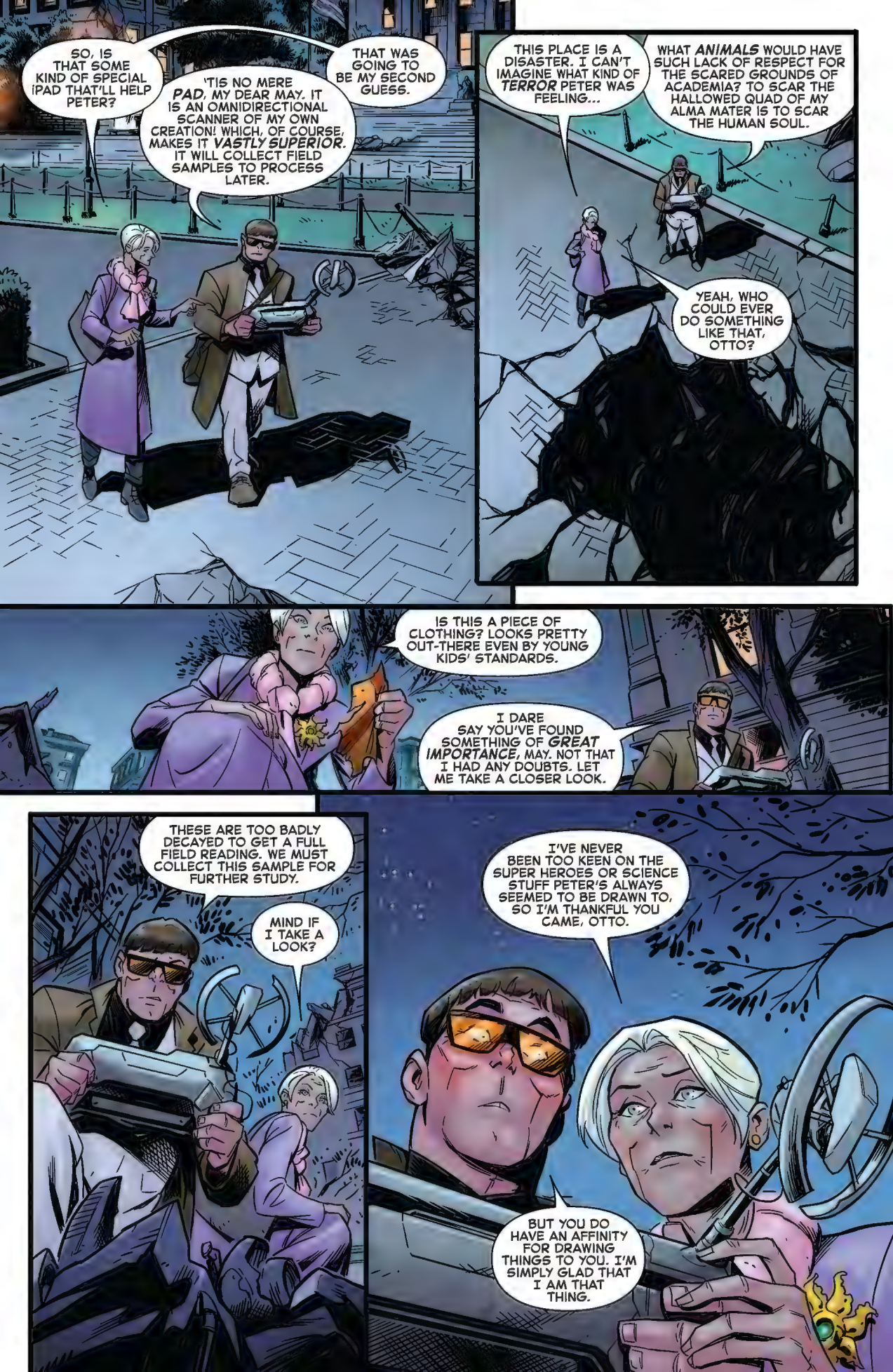
PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF...
WITH THIS CEASE AND DESIST, WE'LL MAKE SURE THIS "BROOKLYN SPIDER-MAN" IS TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE HE CAN EVEN *THINK* OF BECOMING AN ISSUE FOR YOU AND BEYOND.
CEASE AND DESIST

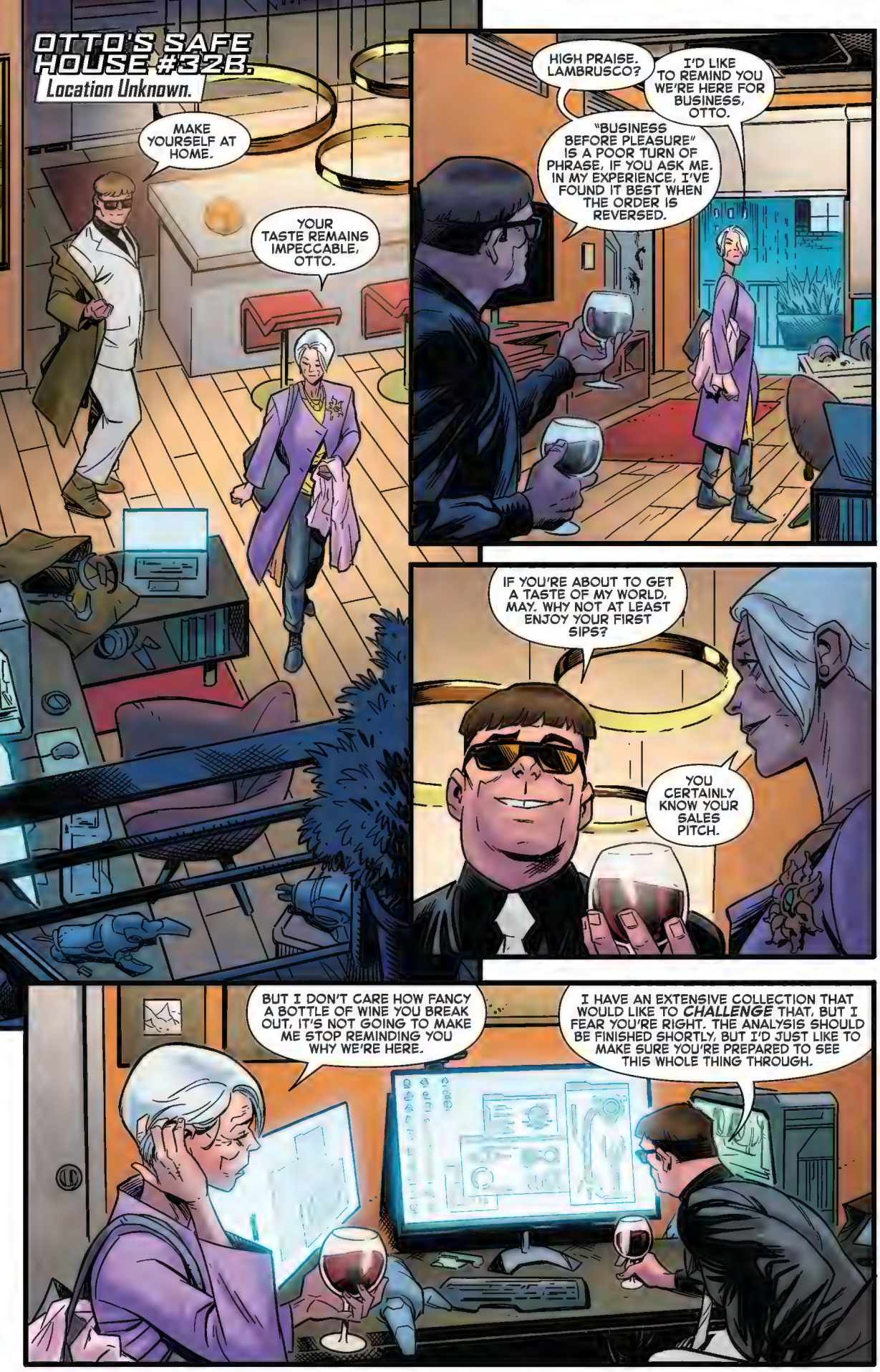
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN.
West 45th St
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY PETER'S NOT GETTING ANY BETTER, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY, DR. BURDICK.
WAIT, MRS. PARKER? H-HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?!
I HAD TO KEEP TRACK OF A TEENAGE BOY IN THE MIDDLE OF QUEENS. IF MAY PARKER NEEDS TO FIND SOMETHING, SHE FINDS IT. WHICH IS WHY I NEED YOU TO FIND SOME ANSWERS.
MA'AM, AS I EXPLAINED, YOUR NEPHEW HAS A VERY SPECIFIC ILLNESS BROUGHT ON BY A VERY SPECIFIC SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE DATA FOR.
WITHOUT THAT INFORMATION, WE'RE FLYING BLIND.
IF "DATA" IS WHAT YOU NEED, THEN YOU BETTER FIND SOME GOGGLES 'CAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE UP TO YOUR EYEBALLS IN IT!
AND HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THAT?
HELLO? MRS. PARKER--
CLICK!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW, MAY...
I MUST SAY, MAY, WHILE YOU'RE AS BREATHTAKING AS EVER, YOU CALLING ME WAS ALMOST AS BIG OF A SURPRISE...

...AS ME AGREEING TO COME.
OTTO OCTAVIUS, STILL AS CHARMING AS I REMEMBER.
TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE--
I'LL BE DIRECT, OTTO. I'VE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR... ISSUES. YOU MAY NOT BE PREPARED FOR THE THINGS I MIGHT DO IF YOU ASK FOR MY AID.
I WANT YOUR BRAIN, NOT YOUR BRAWN. SOMETHING HAS MADE MY PETER VERY SICK, AND NONE OF HIS DOCTORS HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO HELP. THEY JUST DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION.
MY TRAIL HAS RUN COLD, AND I NEED A VERY SPECIFIC HEAT THAT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE ME. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME, OTTO? CAN YOU HELP ME?
I, UH, BELIEVE I CAN DO THAT.
BUT BEFORE WE START, I'LL NEED TO GRAB MY WORK SUIT.


WHEN YOU'VE TAKEN AS MANY SPINS AROUND THE SUN AS I HAVE, THINGS ALMOST SEEM TO GAIN A RHYTHM. IT'S LIKE A CYCLE.
JUST AS SURE AS THE SUN WILL RISE, MY NEPHEW PETER PARKER GETS HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE. A BROKEN BONE HERE. A BRUISE THERE.
WHEREVER HE GOES, TROUBLE JUST LOVES TO FOLLOW. BUT THIS TIME, IT'S DIFFERENT. IT *FEELS* SO DIFFERENT, PETER. I JUST NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND *THAT'S* WHY I'M DOING THIS.
YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING SO BAD THESE DOCTORS ARE FLYING AS BLIND AS I AM. BUT I'M GOING TO *FIX* THAT. BECAUSE I'M *AUNT MAY,* AND FIXIN' THINGS IS WHAT I DO!
BUT I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU *FIRST*...
...I NEED YOU TO *FORGIVE* ME. I'VE BEEN BACKED INTO A HECK OF A CORNER, AND IT'S LOOKING LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THINGS INTO MY OWN HANDS...


...WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM AN *OLD FRIEND.*
YOU *HUMBLE* ME WITH YOUR BEAUTY, AS USUAL, MAY.
OTTO OCTAVIUS. NICE TO SEE YOU STILL KEEP A GENTLEMAN'S AIRS ABOUT YOU. ALTHOUGH THE SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT IS CERTAINLY A *CHOICE.*
WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE AS *RADIANT* AS THE SUN, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO PROTECT MY EYES.
WHICH DOES REMIND ME...
IT'LL NEVER SHINE AS BRIGHTLY AS YOU, BUT PERHAPS ITS DULLNESS WILL BE A NICE ACCENT.
OTTO, I CAN'T...
HOW CAN A MAN WITH SUCH *AWFUL* TASTE IN HAIRCUTS HAVE SUCH A SOLID LOCK ON STYLE?
BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY IT'LL LOOK MUCH BETTER ON YOU THAN ON ME, AND I HAVE THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT.
OH, I *BELIEVE* YOU.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, OTTO. THANK YOU.
IT'S MY ABSOLUTE PLEASURE--
NOW, LET'S GET TO IT!
UH, Y-YES, LET US.

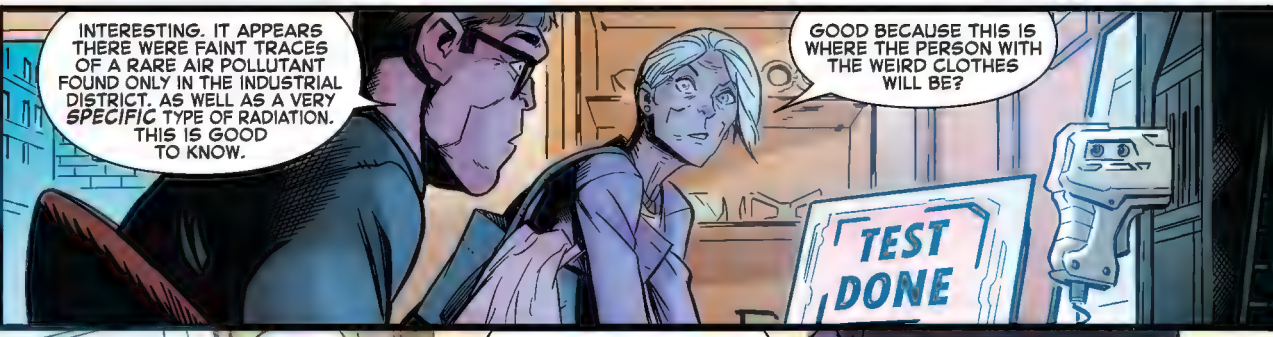

SO, IS THAT SOME KIND OF SPECIAL iPAD THAT'LL HELP PETER?
'TIS NO MERE PAD, MY DEAR MAY. IT IS AN OMNIDIRECTIONAL SCANNER OF MY OWN CREATION! WHICH, OF COURSE, MAKES IT VASTLY SUPERIOR. IT WILL COLLECT FIELD SAMPLES TO PROCESS LATER.
THAT WAS GOING TO BE MY SECOND GUESS.
THIS PLACE IS A DISASTER. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF TERROR PETER WAS FEELING...
WHAT ANIMALS WOULD HAVE SUCH LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE SCARED GROUNDS OF ACADEMIA? TO SCAR THE HALLOWED QUAD OF MY ALMA MATER IS TO SCAR THE HUMAN SOUL.
YEAH, WHO COULD EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, OTTO?
IS THIS A PIECE OF CLOTHING? LOOKS PRETTY OUT-THERE EVEN BY YOUNG KIDS' STANDARDS.
I DARE SAY YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, MAY. NOT THAT I HAD ANY DOUBTS. LET ME TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
THESE ARE TOO BADLY DECAYED TO GET A FULL FIELD READING. WE MUST COLLECT THIS SAMPLE FOR FURTHER STUDY.
MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?
I'VE NEVER BEEN TOO KEEN ON THE SUPER HEROES OR SCIENCE STUFF PETER'S ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE DRAWN TO, SO I'M THANKFUL YOU CAME, OTTO.
BUT YOU DO HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR DRAWING THINGS TO YOU. I'M SIMPLY GLAD THAT I AM THAT THING.


OTTO'S SAFE HOUSE #32B.
Location Unknown.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
YOUR TASTE REMAINS IMPECCABLE, OTTO.
HIGH PRAISE, LAMBRUSCO?
I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU WE'RE HERE FOR BUSINESS, OTTO.
"BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE" IS A POOR TURN OF PHRASE, IF YOU ASK ME. IN MY EXPERIENCE, I'VE FOUND IT BEST WHEN THE ORDER IS REVERSED.
IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A TASTE OF MY WORLD, MAY, WHY NOT AT LEAST ENJOY YOUR FIRST SIPS?
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR SALES PITCH.
BUT I DON'T CARE HOW FANCY A BOTTLE OF WINE YOU BREAK OUT, IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE ME STOP REMINDING YOU WHY WE'RE HERE.
I HAVE AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION THAT WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE THAT, BUT I FEAR YOU'RE RIGHT. THE ANALYSIS SHOULD BE FINISHED SHORTLY, BUT I'D JUST LIKE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED TO SEE THIS WHOLE THING THROUGH.

I CALLED MY OCTOPUS-THEMED, EVIL GENIUS-EX TO DIG AROUND AT A COLLEGE UNDER COVER OF NIGHT. YOU THINK I'M *NOT* READY TO GET WEIRD, OTTO?
I DON'T DOUBT YOUR TENACITY TO *"GET WEIRD."* I'M SIMPLY ASKING THAT YOU REMEMBER *MINE*.

I MAKE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE MAN THAT I AM OR WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF. IF WE EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER, I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE THE PERSON YOU *THINK* I AM. BUT IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I WILL DO *WHATEVER* I MUST TO PROTECT YOU AND MYSELF.

YOU BETTER THAN *ANYONE* SHOULD KNOW I'M MORE THAN CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF MYSELF, OTTO. I DON'T NEED SOME BIG STRONG MAN TO COME SWEEP ME UP IN HIS ARMS THE SECOND THINGS GET DICEY.
WHAT ABOUT A MAN WITH EIGHT ARMS?
BEEP!


INTERESTING. IT APPEARS THERE WERE FAINT TRACES OF A RARE AIR POLLUTANT FOUND ONLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT. AS WELL AS A VERY *SPECIFIC* TYPE OF RADIATION. THIS IS GOOD TO KNOW.
GOOD BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE THE PERSON WITH THE WEIRD CLOTHES WILL BE?
TEST DONE

UNCERTAIN. BUT WE MUST MAKE HASTE NONETHELESS. I CAN AFFORD YOU MANY LUXURIES BUT *TIME* IS NOT AMONG THEM.

WOW. HAS THE SUIT BEEN THERE THIS WHOLE TIME? CAN'T BELIEVE I *MISSED* THAT.
I'VE BEEN TOLD MY HOSTING ABILITIES ARE *NIGH-HYPNOTIC*. I'M NOT BRAGGING, JUST PASSING ALONG WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD.
CLICK CLACK
YOU CERTAINLY CLEAN UP NICE, BUT I HOPE YOU DON'T PLAN ON HAVING TO MAKE MUCH USE OUT OF THAT.
MY SUIT'S OFFENSE SYSTEMS ARE IMPECCABLE, *OBVIOUSLY*. BUT THEY ALSO OFFER A ROBUST SUITE OF SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE-COLLECTION OPTIONS.
AND THE OMNI-SENSOR WILL ALLOW ME TO CREATE A PERFECT COPY OF THE RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS ONCE WE FIND ITS SOURCE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS CALLED THE OMNI-SCANNER?
TEST DONE
THAT'S A SCANNER. A *SENSOR* IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BALL GAME, MY DEAR.
RIGHT. WELL, WE HAVE OUR FIRST LEAD, I THINK IT'S TIME WE CRACKED THIS THING WIDE OPEN. I HOPE YOU STILL REMEMBER HOW TO USE THAT SUIT.
WORRY NOT. I'M STILL *QUITE* DEXTEROUS.

THIS IS THE LOCATION. IT'S OBVIOUSLY A FRONT FOR A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION. WE MUST MAKE THEM PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST YOUR NEPHEW!
I KINDA THINK IT'S JUST A NORMAL APARTMENT BUILDING. LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
THEIR SILENCE IS BUT A TAUNT. WE MUST BURST IN AND TAKE WHAT IS OURS!
MAYBE LET'S TRY A LIGHTER TOUCH FIRST, OTTO.
RING!
UH, H-HELLO?
HI, THERE. TO WHOM AM I SPEAKING?
UH, ERIC.
HI, ERIC. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD TROUBLE YOU AND TAKE A LOOK AT ONE OF YOUR ROOMS?
OFFICE HOURS ARE BETWEEN NINE AND FIVE, MONDAY THROUGH FRI--
WHO IS THAT?!
ENOUGH OF YOUR GAMES, ERIC!
I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY HUSBAND. HE HAS BEEN VERY POORLY TRAINED. WE WOULDN'T BE LONG, FIFTEEN MINUTES TOPS. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
...
WOW, YOU REMIND ME OF MY MOM.
FINE, I'LL BUZZ YOU UP.

LIKE I SAID, FOUR WEIRDOS WERE THE PREVIOUS RENTERS, BUT I THINK THEY RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE WITH THE LAW.
FOUR? DID YOU GET A NAME.
SIMON. I MADE A "SIMON SAYS" JOKE, AND HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS FUNNY AT ALL.
OF COURSE. RADIATION, POISON GAS, SIMON. IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE U-FOES.
THE U-WHOS?
LISTEN CLOSELY, YOUNG ERIC. WHEN DID THE POLICE--?
WASN'T NO POLICE. WAS A THING CALLED INFINITE SOLUTIONS. TOOK 'EM AND CLEANED THE PLACE BETTER THAN EVER. (THOUGH MY COUSIN BARRY UNDID ALL THAT AFTER CRASHING HERE A FEW DAYS.) ANYWAY, THEY DID IT PRO BONER!
EXCUSE ME?
YOU KNOW, PRO BONER. LIKE WHEN YOU DO STUFF FOR FREE OR WHATEVER.
IT'S PRO BONO, YOU CAVEMAN--
OTTO, I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING?
CARPET LOOKS FUNNY. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SCIENCE BUT I KNOW THINGS LOOKING FUNNY IS A CLUE.
FROM MY EXPERIENCE, THAT IS INDEED OFTEN THE CASE.

MIGHT I TAKE A LOOK WITH THE SCANNER?
THE OMNI-SCANNER.
HEH, YES, THE OMNI-SCANNER. THIS DISCOLORATION IS MOST LIKELY SOME BYPRODUCT OF X-RAY'S RADIATION.
THIS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH PETER'S ILLNESS. WE COULD USE THE OMNI-SCANNER TO RE-CREATE THIS SPECIFIC RADIATION SIGNATURE.
COULD ANYONE RE-CREATE IT? LIKE PETER'S DOCTORS, FOR INSTANCE?
WE WOULD NEED A LARGER QUANTITY, SO THAT IT COULD BE COPIED IN A LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT MULTIPLE TIMES.
OH SHOOT, I CANT SEEM TO GET THIS THING TO WORK. I TOLD YOU I'M NO GOOD WITH THIS SUPER HERO STUFF, OTTO!
PERHAPS YOU NEED A LIGHTER TOUCH, MY DEAR.
YOU MUST REMEMBER TO FIRST COLLATE THE IONIZED POLARITY BEFORE A SAMPLE CAN BE COLLECTED.
IT'S TURNED ON!
INDEED. BUT AS I FEARED, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TO COLLECT JUST YET. PERHAPS THIS CLEANING COMPANY WOULD HAVE SOME ANSWERS.
IF I GIVE YOU THEIR BUSINESS CARD, WILL YOU GUYS DO THIS LITERALLY ANYWHERE ELSE?

SO WHAT IS INFINITE SOLUTIONS?
IT WOULD SEEM THEY ARE *ALSO* CHARGED WITH HOLDING SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS AWAITING TRIAL OR TRANSFER TO PRISON. THOUGH ONLY A *FOOL* WOULD THINK THAT THE TRUTH.
YOU MAKE QUITE THE PARTNER, OTTO. IT MAKES ME MISS THE *OLD DAYS*.
GULP WE'RE HERE.
THIS GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE HAS EATEN AWAY AT ENOUGH OF OUR NIGHT. WE *WILL* COLLECT THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO HELP PETER.
OKAY, OTTO...
...BUT I'M STILL GOING TO DO THE TALKING ON THIS ONE.
WE ARE ABOUT TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD, MAY. I THINK IT WISE TO READY OURSELVES.
WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING THE ONES I LOVE, I THINK IT'S *THESE* GUYS WHO SHOULD GET READY.
HA! I WOULD AGREE.

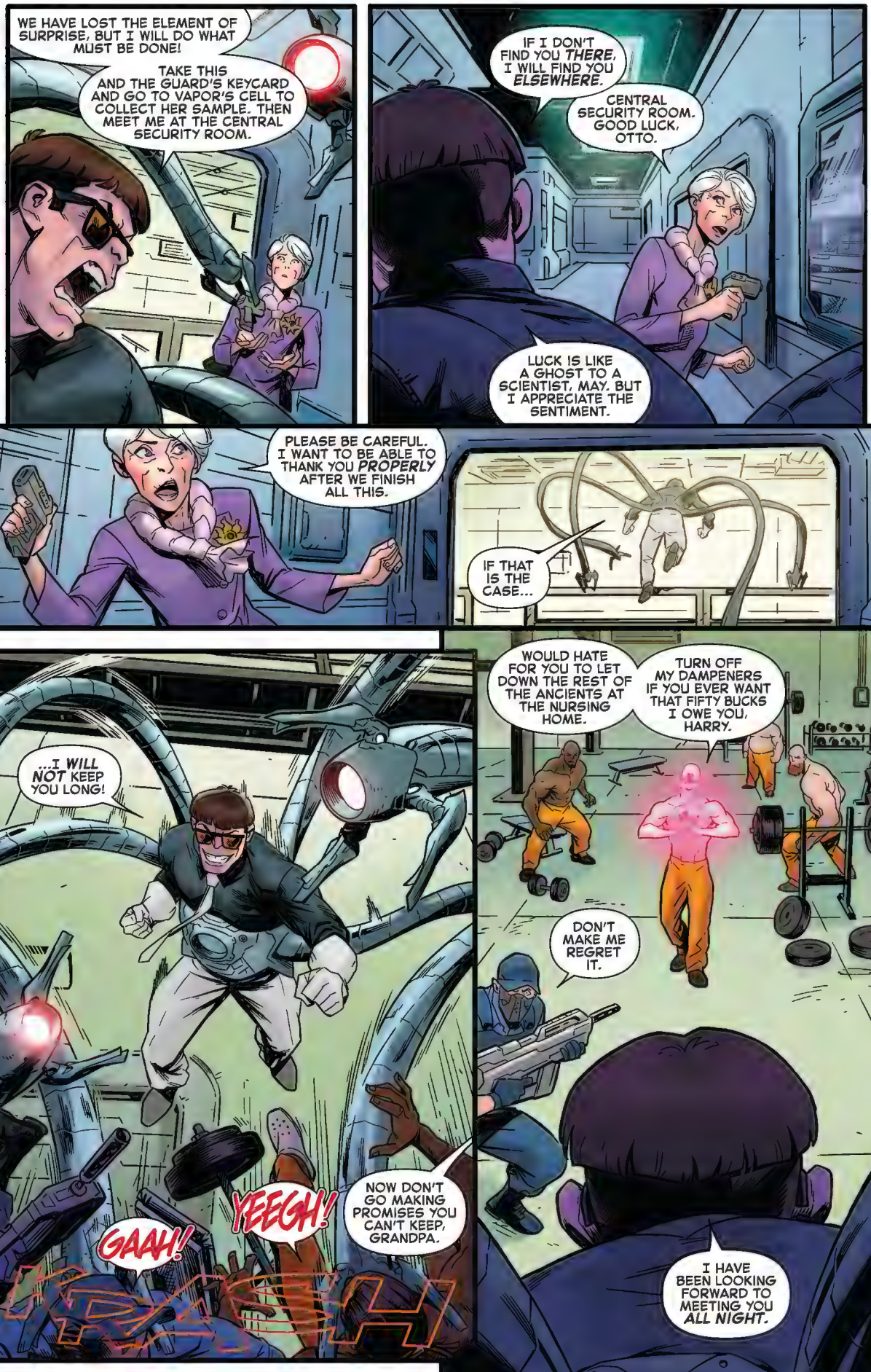
THIS LOOKS FAR TOO NORMAL TO BE NORMAL.
I KNOW I'M NOT HIP ON THIS HERO STUFF, BUT THIS LOOKS PRETTY SAFE, OTTO.
IT IS WHEN WE FEEL THE MOST SAFE THAT WE ARE IN THE MOST DANGER.
THAT'S CERTAINLY... A TAKE.
HELLO, CAN I HELP YOU?
HELLO, SONNY. WE WERE TRYING TO SPEAK WITH OUR GRANDSON, BUT THE NICE FOLKS DOWN AT THE JAILHOUSE TOLD US HE'D BEEN TAKEN HERE.
WE ARE QUITE DEVASTATED BY HIS ABSENCE. WE WISH TO EASE HIS MIND WITH COOKIES. LOTS OF COOKIES THAT WE BAKED WITH LOVE.
LOTS OF LOVE.
UH, I'M SURE YOUR GRANDSON WOULD LOVE THAT. KNOW A LOT OF THE GUYS IN THERE DO, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.
NO UNSCHEDULED VISITORS
VISITATIONS BY ONLINE APPOINTMENT ONLY. FOR SECURITY REASONS, YOU KNOW.
OH, PINEAPPLES. PERHAPS THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE BACK YOU COULD TALK TO--
NO SCHEDULED
TAP
TAP
I FEAR YOUR METHODOLOGY NOT WORKING PROVES MY POINT ABOUT THIS PLACE. IT IS TIME YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD.
I DON'T WANT YOU HURTING PEOPLE, OTTO! I JUST NEED TO THINK SOMETHING ELSE UP.
YES. UP IS JUST WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

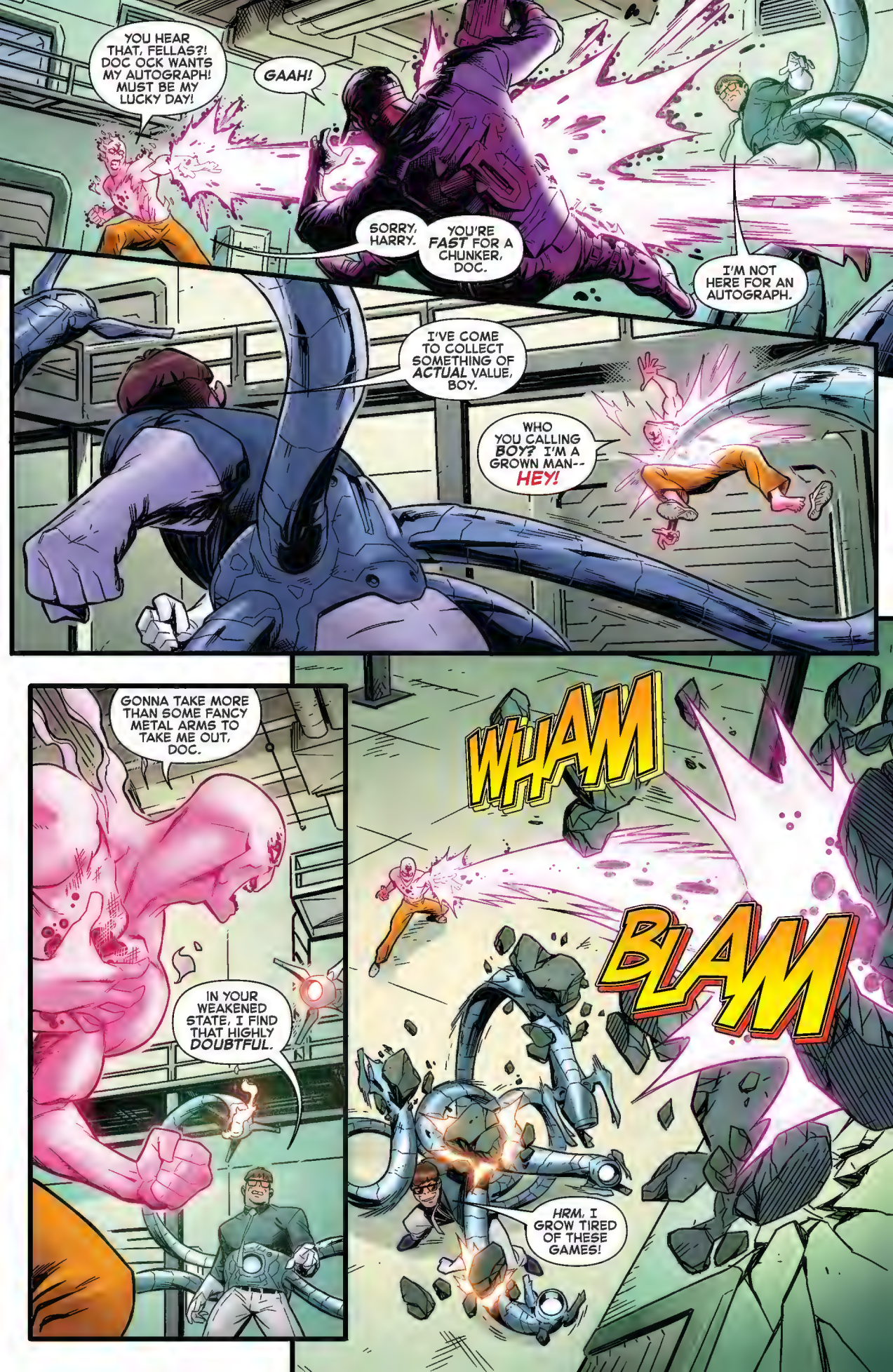
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--? WOOP!
IF YOU DROP ME I WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU SO HARD OTTO OCTAVIUS! I SWEAR I WILL!
I'M A SCIENTIST, MAY. I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.
WELL, MOSTLY.

KRAK!
NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN THE ACTIVE MEASURE, WE WILL BE SHORT ON TIME. MY CALCULATIONS TELL ME THAT WE WILL NEED TO COLLECT SAMPLES FROM X-RAY AND HIS COHORT VAPOR IF WE WISH TO SAVE YOUR NEPHEW.
OH DEAR--
THIS ALL LOOKS PRETTY INTENSE FOR A REHABILITATION CENTER. NOT LOVING THE IDEA OF WHAT WE MAY FIND DEEPER INSIDE.
THEN WE MUST BE EFFICIENT. THE BOTH OF US MUST BE PREPARED TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY IF PETER IS TO BE SAVED.
I--I UNDERSTAND. I CAN DO THAT. BUT IN MY OWN WAY.
THEN LET US MOVE.
THE OMNI-SCANNER IS REDLINING. OUR SAMPLES ARE NEAR. ONE TO THE WEST AND ONE TO THE NORTH.
THOSE "SAMPLES" HAVE NAMES, OTTO. X-RAY ISN'T MUCH OF A NAME BUT HE DOES HAVE ONE. REMEMBER, THESE ARE PEOPLE.
PEOPLE THAT HAVE MADE THEIR BED AND NOW LIE IN IT--
LOOK OUT!

THOSE ARE SOME NASTY LOOKING FELLOWS.
I HAVE A FEELING THIS PLACE ***BREEDS*** "NASTY" WHICH IS WHY WE MUST BE DONE WITH THIS QUICKLY.
VAPOR IS LIKELY TO THE WEST. I IMAGINE HER ***SPECIALIZED*** CONTAINMENT REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF POWER, AND IT IS CLOSEST TO THIS SITE'S POWER SOURCE.
WHICH MEANS X-RAY MUST BE JUST AROUND THE...
YOU TRYNNA PULL A FAST ONE ON ME, KID?!
...CORNER?!
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GONNA ***SPOT*** SOMEBODY, YOU GOTTA BE USING PROPER FORM!
YOU COULD REALLY GET SOMEONE HURT WITH BAD TECHNIQUE, BRO.
S-SORRY, GUYS. I'LL DO BETTER NEXT SET. PROMISE.
THAT'S ALL WE WANT TO HEAR, WES.

I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT, OTTO. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE DOWN THERE.
THIS IS UNEXPECTED. NOT AN INSURMOUNTABLE CHANGE IN COURSE, BUT THE PLAN WILL NEED ADJUSTING. THIS ASSAULT MUST NOW BE TWO-PRONGED--
HEY!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
HE'S GONNA SHOOT!
CRETIN!
BANG!
WHACK!
OOOFH!
WHAT THE?!
SHOTS FIRED! SHOTS FIRED! SHOTS FIRED!
ESCORT THE PRISONERS BACK TO THEIR CELLS!
YOU DARE?!
OTTO, DON'T!

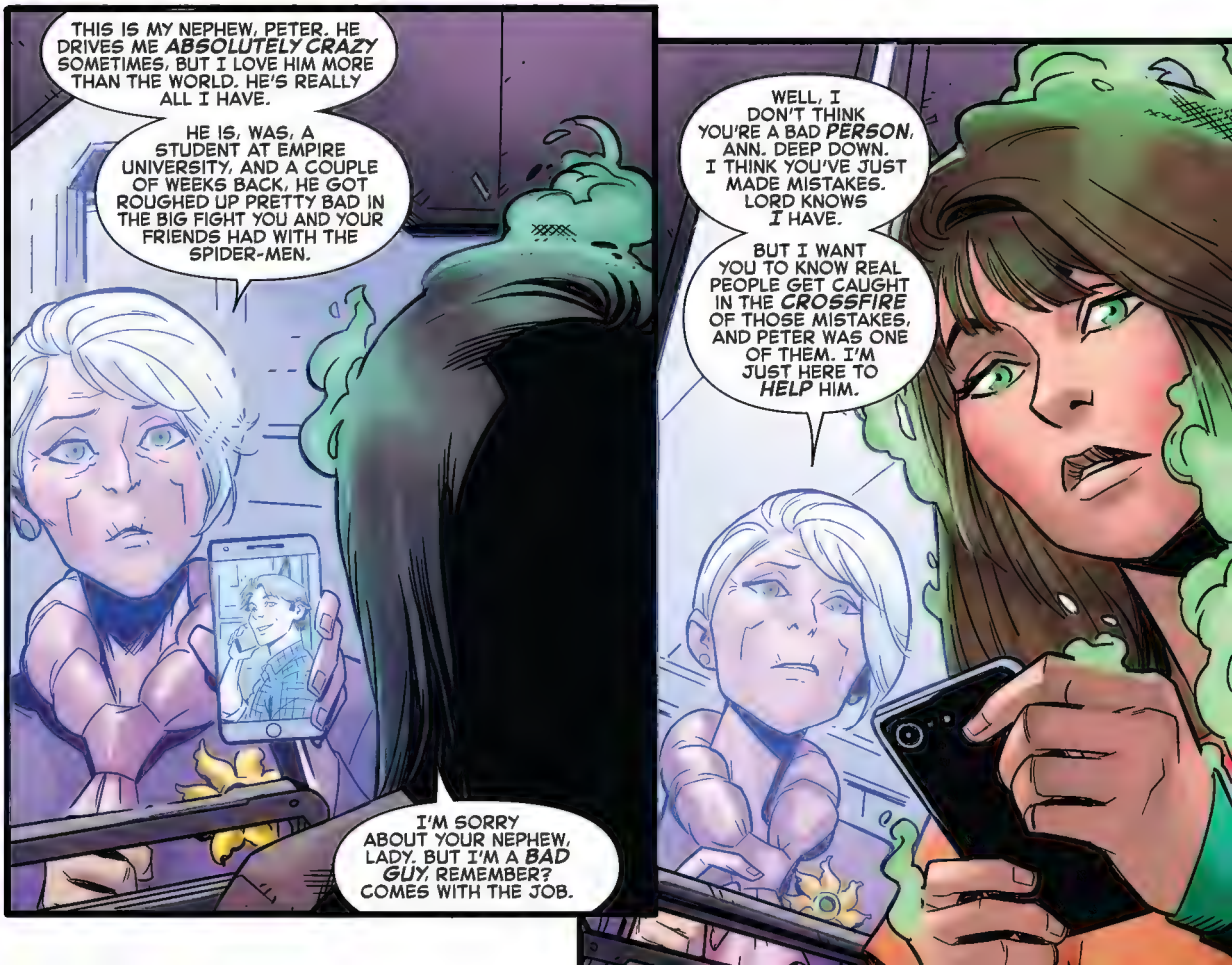

WE HAVE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, BUT I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
TAKE THIS AND THE GUARD'S KEYCARD AND GO TO VAPOR'S CELL TO COLLECT HER SAMPLE. THEN MEET ME AT THE CENTRAL SECURITY ROOM.
IF I DON'T FIND YOU THERE, I WILL FIND YOU ELSEWHERE.
CENTRAL SECURITY ROOM. GOOD LUCK, OTTO.
LUCK IS LIKE A GHOST TO A SCIENTIST, MAY. BUT I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO THANK YOU PROPERLY AFTER WE FINISH ALL THIS.
IF THAT IS THE CASE...
...I WILL NOT KEEP YOU LONG!
GAAH!
YEEGH!
NOW DON'T GO MAKING PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP, GRANDPA.
WOULD HATE FOR YOU TO LET DOWN THE REST OF THE ANCIENTS AT THE NURSING HOME.
TURN OFF MY DAMPENERS IF YOU EVER WANT THAT FIFTY BUCKS I OWE YOU, HARRY.
DON'T MAKE ME REGRET IT.
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL NIGHT.


YOU HEAR THAT, FELLAS?! DOC OCK WANTS MY AUTOGRAPH! MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!
GAAH!
SORRY, HARRY.
YOU'RE FAST FOR A CHUNKER, DOC.
I'M NOT HERE FOR AN AUTOGRAPH.
I'VE COME TO COLLECT SOMETHING OF ACTUAL VALUE, BOY.
WHO YOU CALLING BOY? I'M A GROWN MAN-- HEY!
GONNA TAKE MORE THAN SOME FANCY METAL ARMS TO TAKE ME OUT, DOC.
IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE, I FIND THAT HIGHLY DOUBTFUL.
WHAM
BLAM
HRM, I GROW TIRED OF THESE GAMES!

FWAMM
THEN LET ME HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ENDIN' IT FOR YA, DOC!
MEDIOCRE. HARD TO BELIEVE SUCH A LESSER TALENT WOULD THINK HE WAS CAPABLE OF TAKING ON SPIDER-MAN. WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THIS PLACE?
WHOOOMMMM
AGGH!
ONE MOMENT, WE'RE GETTING CREAMED BY THE HULK, AND THE NEXT WE'RE WAKING UP HERE IN SOME FANCY MED-CENTER.
WHY WASTE RESOURCES ON YOU LOT?
THEY TELL US WE'RE WAITIN' FOR PROCESSING AND TRANSPO' TO THE RAFT.
DIDN'T ASK. DIDN'T CARE. BROKE OUT FIRST CHANCE WE GOT. GOT A JOB QUICK, BUT IT INVOLVED TWO DAMN SPIDER-MEN. AND THAT WAS A COUPLE TOO MANY. NOW WE'RE WAITING FOR TRANSPO' AGAIN.
IN IMMORTAL HULK #46 --MORTAL NICK
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT SPIDEY WAS BIT OF A SCHLUB BUT THIS OTHER GUY WAS LIKE SPIDER-MAN 2.0! HAD SOME OF THE BEST TECH I'VE EVER SEEN. SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY--
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW OF SUPERIORITY?!
UGGCH!

LET THIS BE A REMINDER THAT I STAND SUPERIOR ABOVE ALL! TO THINK VILLAINS OF SUCH LOW CALIBER WOULD REQUIRE AN INTERVENTION FROM SPIDER-MAN?
THAT ALL YOU...GOT... GRAMPS?
I FIND THAT INFORMATION TO BE MOST INTERESTING.
WHA-WHA! WHACK!
OOOOFH!
TWANG!
UGGGH...
DOC OCK, PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!
ALL OF THEM!
YOU DOLTS SEEM TO HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR ONE AS INEXPERIENCED AS HE. LET ME DO YOU THE HONOR...
...OF CORRECTING THAT ERROR!

BLAM BLAM
SOMEONE'S HAVING FUN.
I HATE TO BE A BOTHER, BUT ARE YOU VAPOR?
WHAT GAVE IT AWAY? YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM THE BINGO HALL, GRANDMA.
THEY USUALLY CLOSE UP SHOP AROUND SEVEN. I'M THE ONLY OLD BAT WITH ENOUGH ENERGY TO STILL HANG PAST SUNDOWN.
HEH. I LIKE YOU, LADY. YOU MUST BE ONE TOUGH BIRD IF YOU MANAGED TO SLIP THIS DEEP PAST SECURITY. THAT ALSO MUST MEAN YOU WANT SOMETHING.
YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT, VAPOR--
CALL ME ANN.
OKAY, ANN. I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK. I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.
WHAT KIND OF SOMETHING?

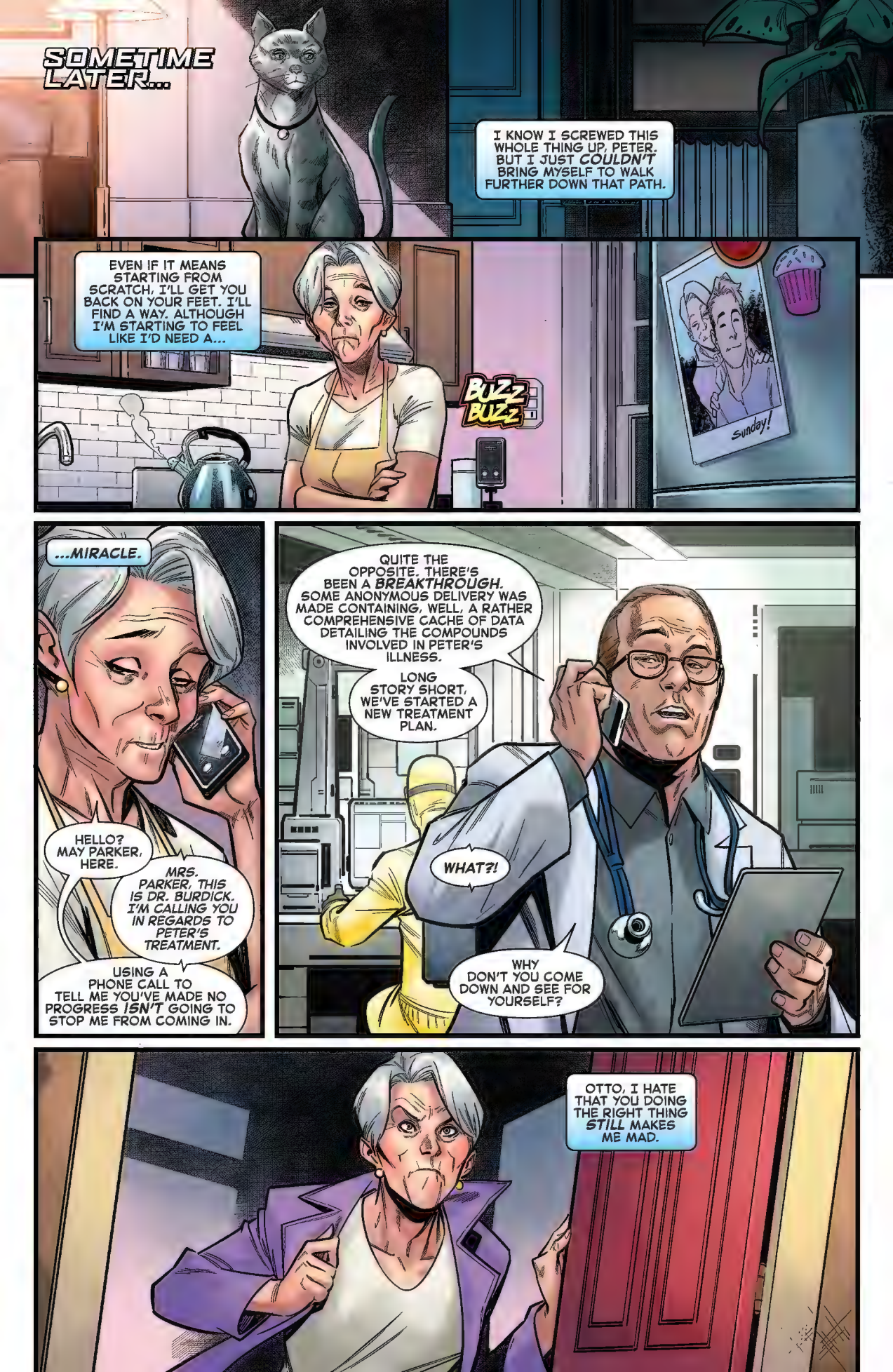

THIS IS MY NEPHEW, PETER. HE DRIVES ME ABSOLUTELY CRAZY SOMETIMES, BUT I LOVE HIM MORE THAN THE WORLD. HE'S REALLY ALL I HAVE.
HE IS, WAS, A STUDENT AT EMPIRE UNIVERSITY, AND A COUPLE OF WEEKS BACK, HE GOT ROUGHED UP PRETTY BAD IN THE BIG FIGHT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAD WITH THE SPIDER-MEN.
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR NEPHEW, LADY. BUT I'M A BAD GUY, REMEMBER? COMES WITH THE JOB.
WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A BAD PERSON, ANN. DEEP DOWN. I THINK YOU'VE JUST MADE MISTAKES. LORD KNOWS I HAVE.
BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW REAL PEOPLE GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE OF THOSE MISTAKES, AND PETER WAS ONE OF THEM. I'M JUST HERE TO HELP HIM.

YOU SEE, PETER'S DOCTORS CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM. THEY USE A BUNCH OF BIG WORDS THAT ALL END UP MEANING "WE DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION TO HELP." BUT YOU *DO*.
I RECENTLY SPENT A FEW NIGHTS IN THE E.R. COURTESY OF THE ANGRIEST AVENGER, SO I CAN RELATE. SORTA. NOT SURE I HAVE THE INFO TO HELP, THOUGH.
BLEEP
YOU *DO*. INSIDE. I NEED A SAMPLE OF *YOU*. SOMETHING I CAN GIVE TO THE DOCTORS SO THEY CAN MAKE A CURE. GIVE ME THAT, AND I CAN BE ON MY WAY. NO MUSS, NO FUSS.
YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE, GRANDMA! LOVE IT! YEAH, I THINK I CAN HELP. NOT LIKE I GOT ANYTHING GOING ON.
BITZ!
WOW, WAS THAT IT? DIDN'T FEEL A THING.
THAT'S IT.
THANK YOU, ANN. TRULY. I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.
Y-YEAH, SURE. WHATEVER. JUST DON'T GO TELLING ANYBODY. I CAN'T HAVE FOLKS THINKING THE U-FOES GOT SOFT.
I'LL TELL 'EM YOU FOUGHT LIKE HELL, SWEETIE...

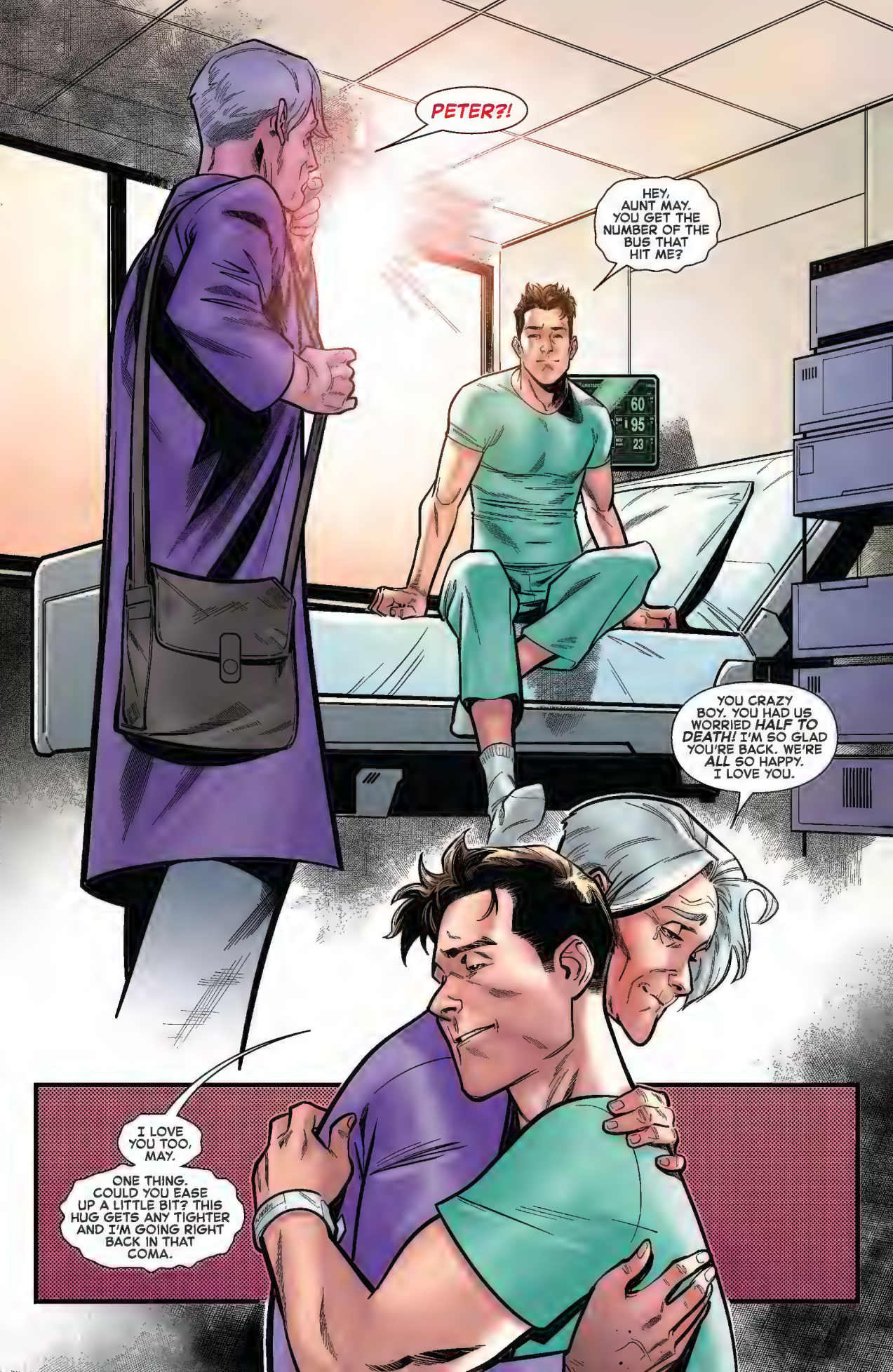
"...EVERY STEP OF THE WAY."
WORMS! THIS INFINITE SOLUTIONS IS A SHAM! WHAT OTHER SECRETS DO YOU HIDE? WHAT MASTERS PULL YOUR STRINGS? YOU WILL TELL ME!
CAN'T WAIT TO LOCK YOU IN THERE WITH THE REST OF THE FREAKS-- GACK!

SILENCE! THIS PLACE REEKS OF SECRETS AND LIES, AND I WILL FIND HOW DEEP THEY GO! PRAY THAT I FIND THEM QUICK.
YOU'RE... CRAZY...DOC... JUST ANOTHER... MURDERER...
LET'S FOLLOW THIS TRAIL. ONE SHELL COMPANY TO ANOTHER, TO ANOTHER TO...
NO...
THIS WASN'T PART OF OUR PLAN, OTTO! YOU PROMISED ME! YOU PROMISED!
MAY, I--
LET THESE MEN GO!
YOU CALLED ME A MURDERER BUT I AM SOMETHING MUCH WORSE.
NO-- GUR-- GURK--
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR? WHAT THEY STOLE FROM ME?
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M ABOUT TO SKIN YOU ALIVE?!
LET THAT MAN GO, OTTO!
FORGIVE ME, MAY. BUT I TOLD YOU THIS IS THE MAN I'VE ALWAYS BEEN. MY NATURE. I WAS DOING WHAT I MUST TO HELP YOU.

YOU STOPPED HELPING THE MOMENT YOU FOUND SOMETHING ON THAT COMPUTER.
I CAN EXPLAIN. THERE IS INFORMATION, PLANS THEY'VE ENTANGLED ME IN--
THERE'S ALWAYS A PLAN. OR A SCHEME. SOME PLOT. WHATEVER YOU CAN USE TO JUSTIFY GOING ON THE WARPATH. BUT I'M TELLING YOU, NO MORE. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OMNI-SENSOR BACK. I WANT NO MORE PART IN THIS. I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO HELP PETER.
I WAS A FOOL TO THINK YOU COULD CHANGE, OTTO. AND AN EVEN BIGGER FOOL FOR TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT I DIDN'T KNOW FROM THE START.
ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE RIGHT, MY DEAR. I AM A CREATURE OF HABIT AND SIMPLE DESIGN. PERHAPS IT IS MY NATURE.
FOR ME, THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS, MAY. I WAS GIVEN A POWER, AND I BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO USE IT.
THEN YOU HAVE USED THAT POWER IRRESPONSIBLY. GOODBYE, OTTO. I WON'T BE SEEING YOU AGAIN.


SOMETIME LATER...
I KNOW I SCREWED THIS WHOLE THING UP, PETER. BUT I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO WALK FURTHER DOWN THAT PATH.
EVEN IF IT MEANS STARTING FROM SCRATCH, I'LL GET YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET. I'LL FIND A WAY. ALTHOUGH I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I'D NEED A...
BUZZ BUZZ
Sunday!
...MIRACLE.
HELLO? MAY PARKER, HERE.
MRS. PARKER, THIS IS DR. BURDICK. I'M CALLING YOU IN REGARDS TO PETER'S TREATMENT.
USING A PHONE CALL TO TELL ME YOU'VE MADE NO PROGRESS ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM COMING IN.
QUITE THE OPPOSITE. THERE'S BEEN A BREAKTHROUGH. SOME ANONYMOUS DELIVERY WAS MADE CONTAINING, WELL, A RATHER COMPREHENSIVE CACHE OF DATA DETAILING THE COMPOUNDS INVOLVED IN PETER'S ILLNESS.
LONG STORY SHORT, WE'VE STARTED A NEW TREATMENT PLAN.
WHAT?!
WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?
OTTO, I HATE THAT YOU DOING THE RIGHT THING STILL MAKES ME MAD.

YOU GOT HERE SO FAST!
DR. BURDICK, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...
HERE WE GO...
THANK YOU AND YOUR TEAM FOR HELPING PETER.
UH, OUR PLEASURE.
YOU'VE WALKED THROUGH THIS DOOR A HUNDRED TIMES. YOU'RE STRONG, MAY. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SEE ON THE OTHER SIDE THAT CAN SHOCK YOU.
I'LL BE DAMNED...


PETER?!
HEY, AUNT MAY. YOU GET THE NUMBER OF THE BUS THAT HIT ME?
YOU CRAZY BOY. YOU HAD US WORRIED *HALF TO DEATH!* I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK. WE'RE *ALL* SO HAPPY. I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU TOO, MAY.
ONE THING. COULD YOU EASE UP A LITTLE BIT? THIS HUG GETS ANY TIGHTER AND I'M GOING RIGHT BACK IN THAT COMA.

"AND I THINK YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY."
BLAM! BLAM!
THAT DOOR'S NOT GONNA HOLD!
HOLD YOUR POSITION!
NOT AGAIN! BE BRAVE, BASIR! BE BRAVE!
WE NEED BACKUP, QUICK--
THWACK!
UGGGH!
KA-KRAK!
UGGGH!
WILL YOU FIGHT LIKE THE OTHERS, OR WILL YOU GIVE ME WHAT I SEEK?

PLEASE, JUST TAKE THE ACCESS CARD. IT'LL LET YOU INTO ALL OF THE SYSTEMS. JUST DON'T HURT ME!
AH, I SEE YOU HAVE LEARNED THE VALUE OF SELF-PRESERVATION. GOOD DOG.
TH-THANK YOU--
TO THINK YOUR MASTERS WOULD TRY TO ELUDE MY NOTICE BY CREATING A SHELL COMPANY CALLED INFINITE SOLUTIONS. HUBRIS.
DID YOU KNOW YOU WORK FOR THE BEYOND CORPORATION?
AT YOUR OTHER SITE, I GOT A TASTE OF YOUR EMPLOYER'S GLUTTONOUS AMBITIONS. IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THEY WILL DEVOUR ALL THAT LAYS BEFORE THEM.
BUT WHAT WILL I FIND WITH THIS NEW ACCESS?
WAAAH!
KRASH!
NO. SPIDER-MAN AND PARKER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THAT STUPID. THEY ALLOWED BEYOND TO PURCHASE THE REMAINS OF PARKER INDUSTRIES?!
THE COMPANY I BUILT?!?!
YOUR SPIDER-MAN ISN'T SUPERIOR. HE IS A COPY OF THE WORK I DID. AND OTTO OCTAVIUS DOESN'T STAND FOR PLAGIARISM.

I WILL REMIND THEM THAT IT IS I WHO WILL ALWAYS REMAIN THE SUPERIOR.

YOU ARE NOT SPIDER-MAN!!!

IT CALLS ITSELF RHIZOME.

IT'S DESTROYED THREE BUILDINGS IN BROOKLYN ALREADY. WE DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT IT IS, OR WHERE IT CAME FROM.
WE DO KNOW THAT IT'S BULLETPROOF, AND ITS FISTS HIT LIKE THE THING'S.
AND BEYOND WANTS ME TO STAND IN FRONT OF SAID FISTS?
GUESS IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN THESE SMOOTHIES YOU GUYS ARE FEEDING ME.
IDEALLY YOU'D, YOU KNOW, MOVE AROUND AND TRY NOT TO GET HIT.
AND THE SMOOTHIES ARE GOOD FOR YOU. THEY HAVE BIOMODIFIED WHEATGRASS.
WELL, THEY TASTE LIKE SOMETHING THAT RHYMES WITH GRASS.
I'LL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THAT.
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY, BEN. A CHANCE TO SHOW THAT SPIDER-MAN CARES ABOUT THE WHOLE CITY.
LITTLE WEIRD TO REFER TO PEOPLE LOSING THEIR HOMES AS AN OPPORTUNITY, BUT I GOT YOU. DON'T SWEAT IT.
OH... ONE MORE THING.

WE ESTIMATE A SEVENTY-NINE PERCENT CHANCE YOU'LL CROSS PATHS WITH THE *UNAUTHORIZED* SPIDER-MAN OPERATING OUT OF BROOKLYN.
IF YOU DO, YOU ARE *CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED* TO ENFORCE BEYOND'S TRADEMARK.
WELL, *THAT* SOUNDS OMINOUS.
DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC. NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING SCARY.
YOU JUST NEED TO *SUGGEST* HE CHANGE HIS NAME. THE R&D GUYS SUGGEST STRIKER OR STINGER, WHICH BOTH TESTED WELL. LET HIM KNOW BEYOND IS *SERIOUS* ABOUT PROTECTING ITS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.
I'LL BE SURE TO DO THAT. WE DONE HERE?
=SIGH=
YES, WE'RE DONE.
AWESOME.
TRASH

HEY, BABE. HEADING OUT.
THAT MONSTER IN BROOKLYN?
HOW DID YOU--?
I HAVE MY WAYS.
YES, YOU DO...
ARE...ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY TO GO OUT AGAIN? AFTER THE WHOLE KRAVEN THING?

YOU KNOW, ONCE, I WOULDA GOT MAD AT YOU FOR ASKING THAT.
"WHADDYA MEAN?! I'M IN GREAT SHAPE!" ALL THAT MACHO CRAP.
BUT I'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW *LUCKY* I AM TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO'LL *ASK* ME THAT, EVEN WHEN EVERYONE ELSE THINKS I'M FINE.
BEN...
SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT, YEAH, THE KRAVEN THING WAS SCARY. BUT I *GOT* THIS.
OKAY?
IT *HAS* TO BE OKAY, RIGHT?
I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR DINNER! BEYOND'S GOT SOME NEW GADGET THEY WANT ME TO TRY OUT. SOUNDS CRAZY FAST, AND HEY...

"...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY."
SHWIK!
FWOOOOOSH!
OVER THE EAST RIVER.
MARCUS, THIS THING IS KICK-ASS! I'M NEVER TAKING THE BRIDGE AGAIN!
DON'T GET TOO USED TO IT. EVERY TRIP YOU TAKE WITH IT BURNS MORE FUEL THAN A LUXURY JET.

BED-STUY.
Soon After.
ALL RIGHT, FOLKS, SPIDER-MAN IS HERE! LET ME AT THAT BAD GUY!
HUH? THAT THING'S GONE. WE'RE DEALING WITH THE WOUNDED.
WHERE DID RHIZOME GO?
RISE--WHO? I'M LOOKING FOR MY GRANDMOTHER'S JEWELRY IN HERE. MY DAUGHTER'S SUPPOSED TO GET MARRIED IN IT.
AND I'M TRYING TO FIND MY HOMEWORK. ARE YOU HERE TO HELP, SPIDER-MAN?
I...UH... WELL...SEE... THAT'S NOT MY ASSIGNMENT.
ASSIGNMENT? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
THAT...

...IS WHAT I WANNA KNOW!
I KNOW THE O.G. SPIDER-MAN'S VOICE. YOU'RE CLOSE, BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM. AND YOU SURE AS HELL AREN'T ME. SO WHO ARE YOU?
WHOA, BUDDY, I--
I GOTTA TELL YOU, I GOT VERY LITTLE PATIENCE THESE DAYS FOR SPIDER-MAN IMPOSTORS.
MILES JUST HAD HIS OWN CLONE SAGA IN MMSM 25-28! --NL

DON'T CALL ME THAT.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE DANGEROUS.
WILL YOU JUST LISTEN?!
MOMMY, WHY ARE THE SPIDER-MEN FIGHTING?
I DON'T KNOW, HONEY.
ZZZZWAT
THWP

LOOK, THIS IS CRAZY! PETE WOULDN'T WANT--
AH, CRAP. BIG MOUTH.
YOU... YOU REALLY *ARE* HIS FRIEND, *HUH?*
FRIEND MIGHT NOT BE THE RIGHT WORD, EXACTLY. MORE LIKE AN *ESTRANGED BROTHER.* BUT I'M DOING THIS WITH HIS BLESSING, I SWEAR. SINCE HE'S BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL--
HOLD UP, PE--*ER*, SPIDER-MAN'S IN THE *HOSPITAL?*
YEAH. IT'S PRETTY BAD.
WHAT *HAPPENED?*
LONG STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME. BUT THE BEYOND CORPORATION HELPED ME--
THE *BEYOND CORPORATION?* YOU'RE WORKING FOR THOSE FOOLS TRYING TO SUE ME FOR BEING SPIDER-MAN?!
HEY, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT--
AAAH!

THWP
NOT BAD.
YOU TOO.
YOU DOWN TO STOP ARGUING LONG ENOUGH TO TRACK DOWN THIS KILLER RUTABAGA?
LET'S DO IT.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK WE'VE ACTUALLY MET BEFORE...

MERE MINUTES LATER...
...THOSE INTER-DIMENSIONAL SPIDER-WARS ARE INSANE--
WHOA, THERE IT IS! YOU FOUND IT CRAZY FAST!
GRAAAAAR!
BEN AND MILES BRIEFLY MET IN SPIDER-GEDDON! --NICK
LITTLE TRICK BEYOND CALLS AUGMENTED TACTICAL LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT-- A.T.L.A.S.
SPIDERS CAN'T STOP RHIZOME! RHIZOME BREAK ALL BUILDINGS!
GAH!
NO MORE BRICK AND STEEL!

OKAY, GRUESOME, COME HERE AND LET'S--
WHOMP!
UNH! TOO FAST!
RHIZOME PULL DOWN HOUSES!
KRAK
RHIZOME THE RUIN-MAKER!
MAN, YOU NEED TO HIT IT FROM A DIS--
THWP
THWP
YOINK
YEEE-OWWW!

ZZZZZZ
ZMF
CAN'T GET AHOLD OF IT!
BLOWS AREN'T--UNH!--GETTING THROUGH!

US GOING SOLO AIN'T GONNA CUT IT, PAL.
THWIP
OOF! WE NEED TO TEAM UP.
THWIP
KRAM
THWIP
SOON, PLEASE.
YEAH, YEAH!
I FEEL YOU. YOU HOLD HIM STILL WHILE I--
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZT!
WHAT WHAT!
NOW, THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

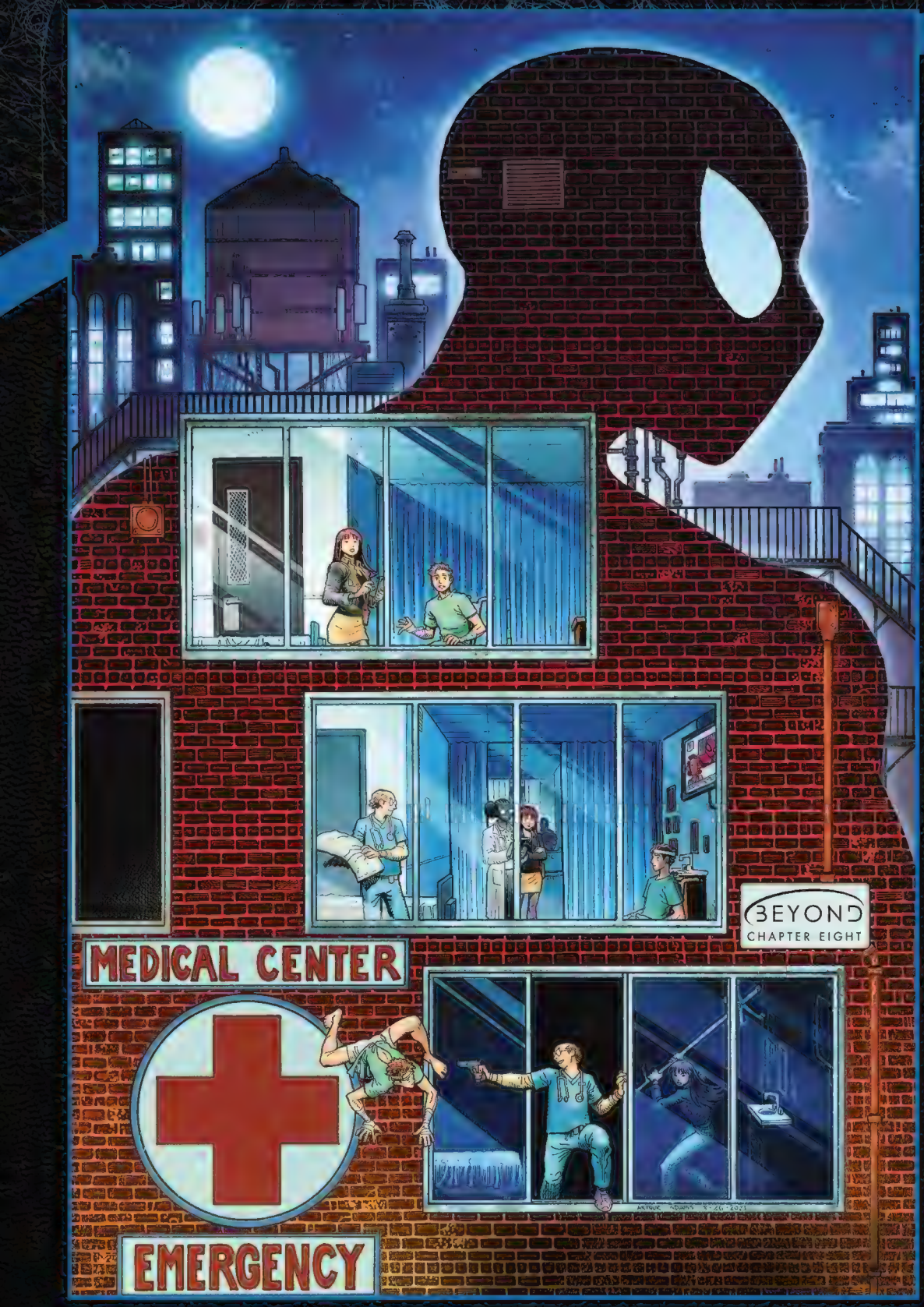
WHOA! I CAN FEEL INSIDE THIS THING! SOMETHING HARD...
UH, GROSS.
BZZZZZZZZZZZ!
SHUT UP, MAN! I MEAN THERE'S LIKE... ELECTRONICS IN HERE?
I'M GONNA TRY AND SHORT 'EM OUT.
SIZZLE!
POP!
IT'S WORKING!
FRAAAA-
BOOOOM
WHAT THE--?

IT'S JUST...SOME DUDE.
HIS POWERS AREN'T ORGANIC. THEY'RE TECH. GRAFTED INTO HIS SKIN. GUESSING THESE DEVICES DESTABILIZE CELL STRUCTURE ENOUGH TO--
WAITAMINUTE. I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. A VERSION OF IT, ANYWAY.
YOU GONNA SHARE WITH THE CLASS?
A GUY-- A COMPUTER PROGRAM--I'VE TANGLED WITH A COUPLE TIMES. THE ASSESSOR.
HIS SPECIALTY IS COOKING UP SUPER-POWERED MONSTERS. HE'S... HE'S BAD. REAL BAD.
MILES MET HIM IN MMSM #8, AND IRON MAN FOUGHT HIM IN THIS YEAR'S IRON MAN ANNUAL #1! --NL
GOT IT. I SHOULD REPORT THIS TO BEYOND.
YOU DO THAT. ME, I'M GONNA TRY AND FOLLOW THIS TRAIL TO SHUT HIM DOWN FOR GOOD.
MAYBE WE'LL CROSS PATHS AGAIN, SOON.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY TO SERVE ME PAPERS OR WHATEVER, THEN? WE GOOD?
YEAH, WE'RE GOOD.
SEE YOU AROUND, SPIDER-MAN.

HI, MULTIBILLION DOLLAR SUPER HERO TRAINING PROFESSIONALS! I'M HOME!
DIDJA MISS ME?
VOICE VERIFIED.
HEAT SIGNATURE. VERIFIED.
BODY SCENT VERIFIED.
ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.
WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.
AFTERNOON, LANGSTON.
MARCUS?
NO.
MAXINE!
WHERE'S MARCUS?
MARCUS IS UNDERGOING *DISCIPLINARY ACTION* BECAUSE HE FAILED TO PROPERLY FACILITATE YOUR LATEST OPERATION.
I'M HERE TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF FULFILLING *ALL* YOUR MISSION OBJECTIVES.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT TRADEMARK GARBAGE? I DID WHAT I COULD, OKAY, LADY?
WHAT WAS I *SUPPOSED* TO DO, BEAT UP A TEENAGER?

BEYOND HAS GIVEN YOU A LOT, BEN. THE PERSONAL TRAINING. THE THERAPY. THE GADGETS. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE MANHATTAN MARKET VALUE OF YOUR APARTMENT IS?
WE EVEN ARRANGED TO HAVE JANINE RELEASED FROM PRISON.
WE'VE DONE THIS BECAUSE BEYOND SEES SOMETHING IN YOU. MORE THAN AN EXPERIMENT. MORE THAN AN EMPLOYEE.
WE'VE INVESTED TREMENDOUS RESOURCES IN THE BELIEF THAT YOU CAN BE A FIRST-CLASS HERO.
NOW YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF: ARE YOU WILLING TO DO WHAT'S NECESSARY TO BE A HERO?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO THROW IT ALL AWAY?

MINUTES LATER.
MADAM DIRECTOR, YOU WERE RIGHT ON THE MONEY. ALL SORTS OF INVESTIGATIVE HITS HERE-- OTTO OCTAVIUS IS DEFINITELY DIGGING INTO BEYOND.
SO WE HAVE AN OCTOPUS PROBLEM. FORTUNATELY FOR US, BEYOND SPECIALIZES...
...IN SOLUTIONS!


BEYOND
CHAPTER EIGHT
MEDICAL CENTER
EMERGENCY

HERE WE GO, MR. PARKER. YOUR NEW ROOM.
IT'S GREAT.
WELL, YOU GRADUATED OUT OF THE ICU, AT LEAST. CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS.
ANY AVAILABLE NURSE TO ROOM 309, PLEASE. NURSE TO ROOM 309.
THEY NEED ME DOWN THE HALL. I'LL SEND SOMEONE TO GET YOU SETTLED IN AND BRING YOU SOME FOOD THOUGH.
THANKS AGAIN.
I'M MORE TIRED THAN I REALIZED. BY THE TIME THE NURSE LEAVES, I'M ALREADY FALLING--
HEY, I GOT A NEIGHBOR?
YOU MIND IF I MOVE THIS DAMN CURTAIN?
ACTUALLY, I--

YANK!
THAT'S BETTER! HEY, I'M RICO!
HEY, RICO, I'M PETE.
I WAS JUST WATCHING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GAME, MAN. HAVE YOU SEEN THIS #$%&?! UNBELIEVABLE.
WELL, I'VE BEEN A LITTLE BUSY, SO--
MISTER SOTOMAYOR?
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME.
HUH? I'M GETTING MOVED AGAIN? NOBODY TOLD ME!
TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
WELL, GOOD TO MEET YA, BUDDY! SO LONG!
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
YEAH, YOU TOO.
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

ALONE AGAIN, I INSTANTLY START TO FALL ASL--
PETER? YOU AWAKE?
OH, HEY, MJ.
DON'T SOUND SO EXCITED TO SEE ME.
SORRY, I--
ARRRRGHHH!
PETE!
HURTS SO MUCH TO SIT UP.
SO STOP SITTING UP, GENIUS.

SURE, IT'S JUST THAT--
I'M SORRY, BUT THERE IS NO ONE HERE BY THAT NAME.
HUH?
ARE YOU SURE? ENRIQUE SOTOMAYOR. HE GOES BY RICO.
I DON'T SEE THAT NAME ON MY LIST, MA'AM. TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.
237
THIS IS SOME B.S.! THE FRONT DESK SAID HE WAS HERE.
WHERE IS MY HUSBAND?
THAT ORDERLY. HE'S LYING. HE JUST WHEELED THAT WOMAN'S HUSBAND OUT OF HERE!
I'M SURE IT'S JUST A MISTAKE. THE HOURS THESE PEOPLE WORK, IT'S EASY TO GET CONFUSED.

AND YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY WORN YOURSELF OUT. YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY, TIGER. GET SOME ACTUAL REST.
I DON'T NEED TO...
...DON'T NEED TO...
ZZZZ
PARDON ME, MA'AM.

VISITING HOURS ARE OVER.
B-BUT IT'S NOT EIGHT YET!
THERE ARE...SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES TODAY, MA'AM. TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.
O-OKAY. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.
PETE, DO YOU NEED ANY--?
ZZZZ
THAT'S RIGHT, TIGER. REST. GET BETTER. PLEASE.
I'M GONNA ASK ABOUT THESE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

M-MARY JANE?
IS THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S NAME? SHE'S GONE, HONEY.
THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO DISCHARGE ME TWO HOURS AGO!
THIS PLACE IS RUN BY BOZOS! THEY CAN'T--
MRS. HAROIAN?
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME.

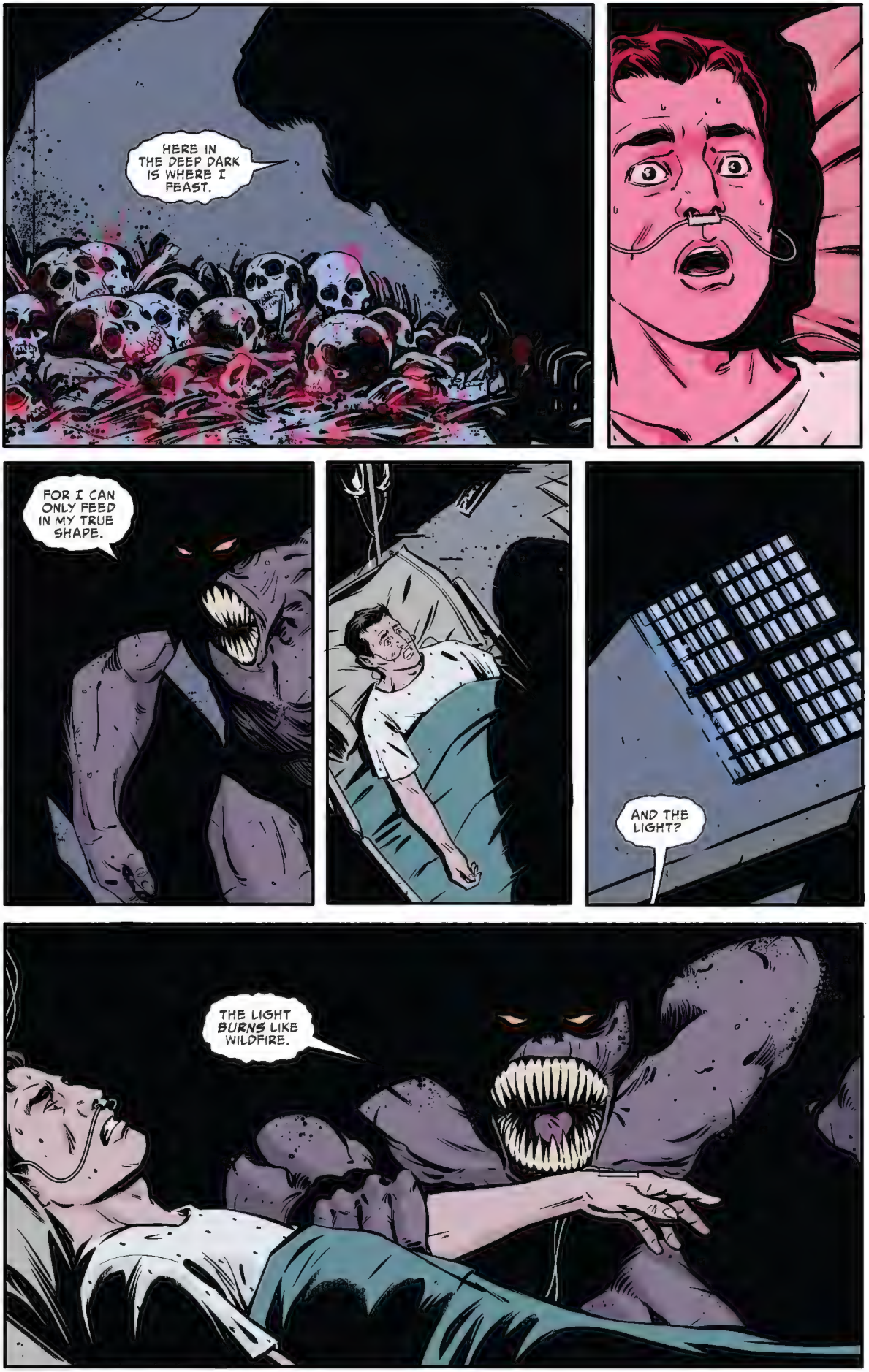
I'M... I'M BEING DISCHARGED? FINALLY!
DISCHARGED? OH, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
SPECIAL WHO?! MY SON'S SUPPOSED TO COME GET ME! I'M GOING HOME!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? I'M SUPPOSED TO GO HOME!
TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.
HEY, PAL, SHE'S TRYING... TRYING TO TELL YOU THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE!
HEY!
UNNNNHH

MISTER PARKER?
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME.
Y-YOU! WHERE'D THAT OLD LADY GO? AND WHY'D YOU LIE TO THAT MAN'S WIFE?
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON WITH--?
AARRG-GHH
WHAT A NOSY YOUNG MAN YOU ARE.

I HAD TO INCREASE YOUR DOSAGE.
TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.
BUT IT WILL MAKE YOU MUCH LESS TROUBLESOME.
WH-WHAT?
N-NO...

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA
THERE ARE PLACES IN THIS HOSPITAL THAT WERE NOT MEANT TO BE SEEN.
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE
BUT THEY OPEN THEMSELVES TO THOSE WHO KNOW TO LOOK.
5
2
1
P
-1
-2
-3
SQUEAK CLICK SQUEAK
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
YOU'RE SUCH A CURIOUS YOUNG MAN. I'LL SHOW YOU MY FAVORITE PLACE.
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
BUT YOU MAY NOT LIKE WHAT YOU FIND...
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE
SQUEAK SQUEAK

FOR ONLY IN THE DARKNESS...
GRNFFG SKFAKG GWNFFK
...CAN I SHOW MY TRUE SHAPE!


HERE IN THE DEEP DARK IS WHERE I FEAST.
FOR I CAN ONLY FEED IN MY TRUE SHAPE.
AND THE LIGHT?
THE LIGHT *BURNS* LIKE WILDFIRE.

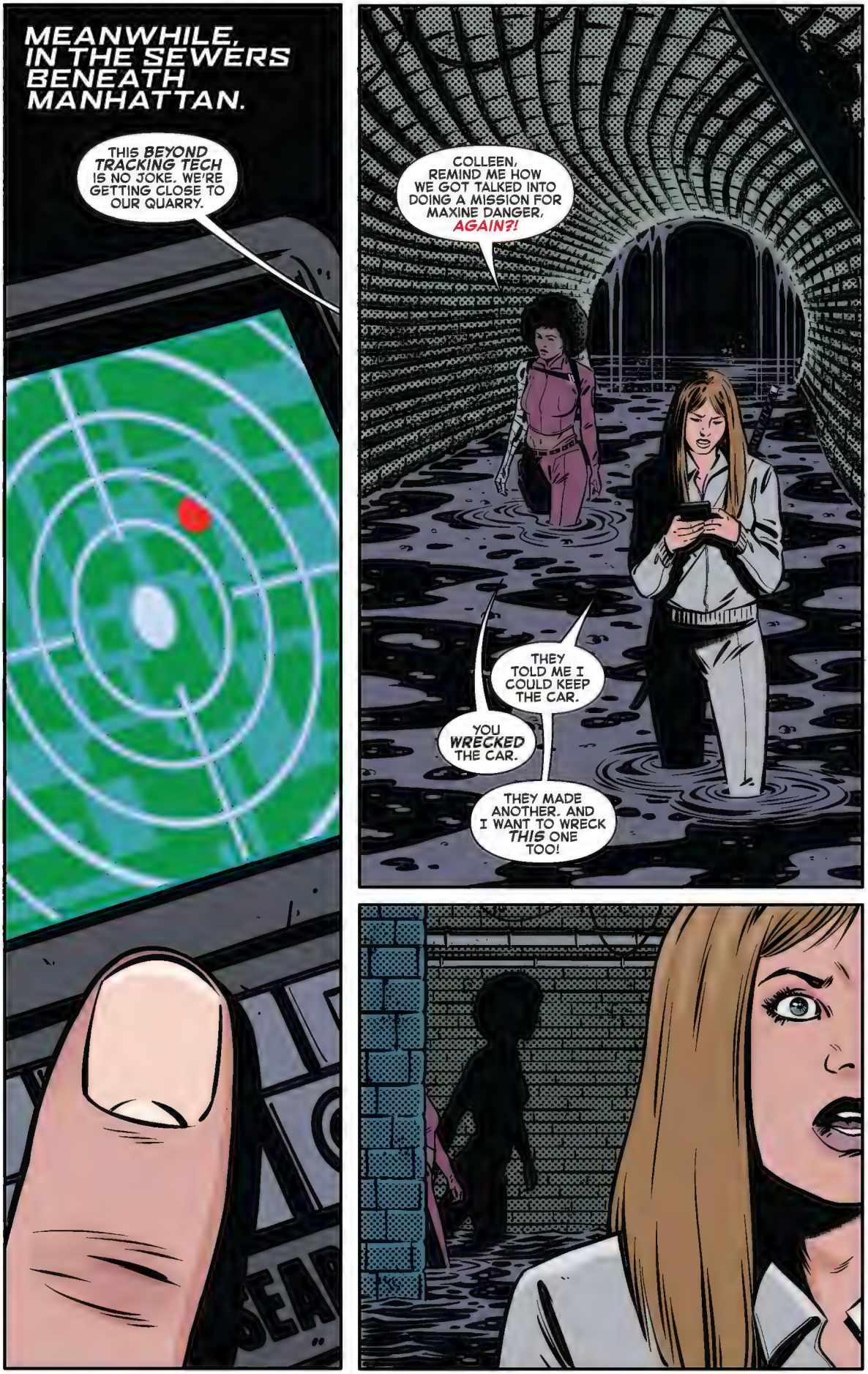
GOOD TO KNOW.
HRN?
SAY CHEESE!
FLASH
HARRRRGGGH!
NO!
STUMP!

MJ!
I THINK WE PASSED LIGHTS ON THE WAY--
GOT IT.
LARRGGGGG
CRASH!

STOMP!
AEEEEEE
BUMF BUMF BUMF BUM
CLICK
WHATEVER THE HELL YOU ARE, YOU TRIED TO EAT THE WRONG GUY.
CHONK
NO!

WHOOOOSH
AAH
GGGGHHH
AAAAGGGHHHHHH
HHHHSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

M-MY... H-HERO...
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*?! GET BACK IN BED!
ARE YOU... F-FLIRTING WITH--?
WHUMP!
SOMEDAY, PETER PARKER, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN HOW TO REST.
IF YOU DON'T, IT'S GOING TO KILL YOU.


MEANWHILE, IN THE SEWERS BENEATH MANHATTAN.
THIS BEYOND TRACKING TECH IS NO JOKE. WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO OUR QUARRY.
COLLEEN, REMIND ME HOW WE GOT TALKED INTO DOING A MISSION FOR MAXINE DANGER, AGAIN?!
THEY TOLD ME I COULD KEEP THE CAR.
YOU WRECKED THE CAR.
THEY MADE ANOTHER. AND I WANT TO WRECK THIS ONE TOO!

EVEN IF THAT MEANS BRINGING IN THE LIZARD!
GRAAAARRRRRRR!

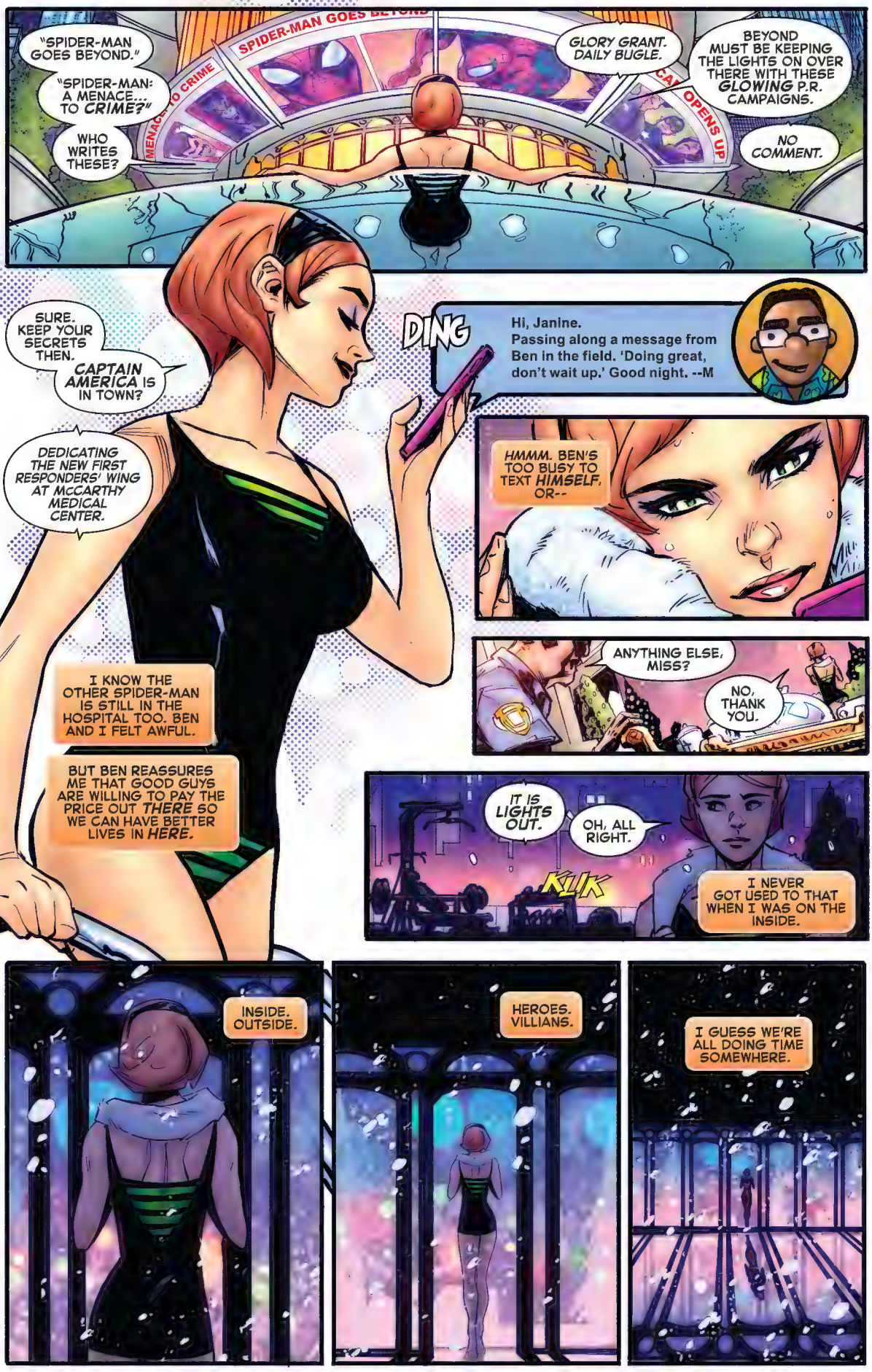
#80 BEY VARIANT BY
MICHAEL DOWLING & BRIAN REBER

BEYOND
CORPORATION

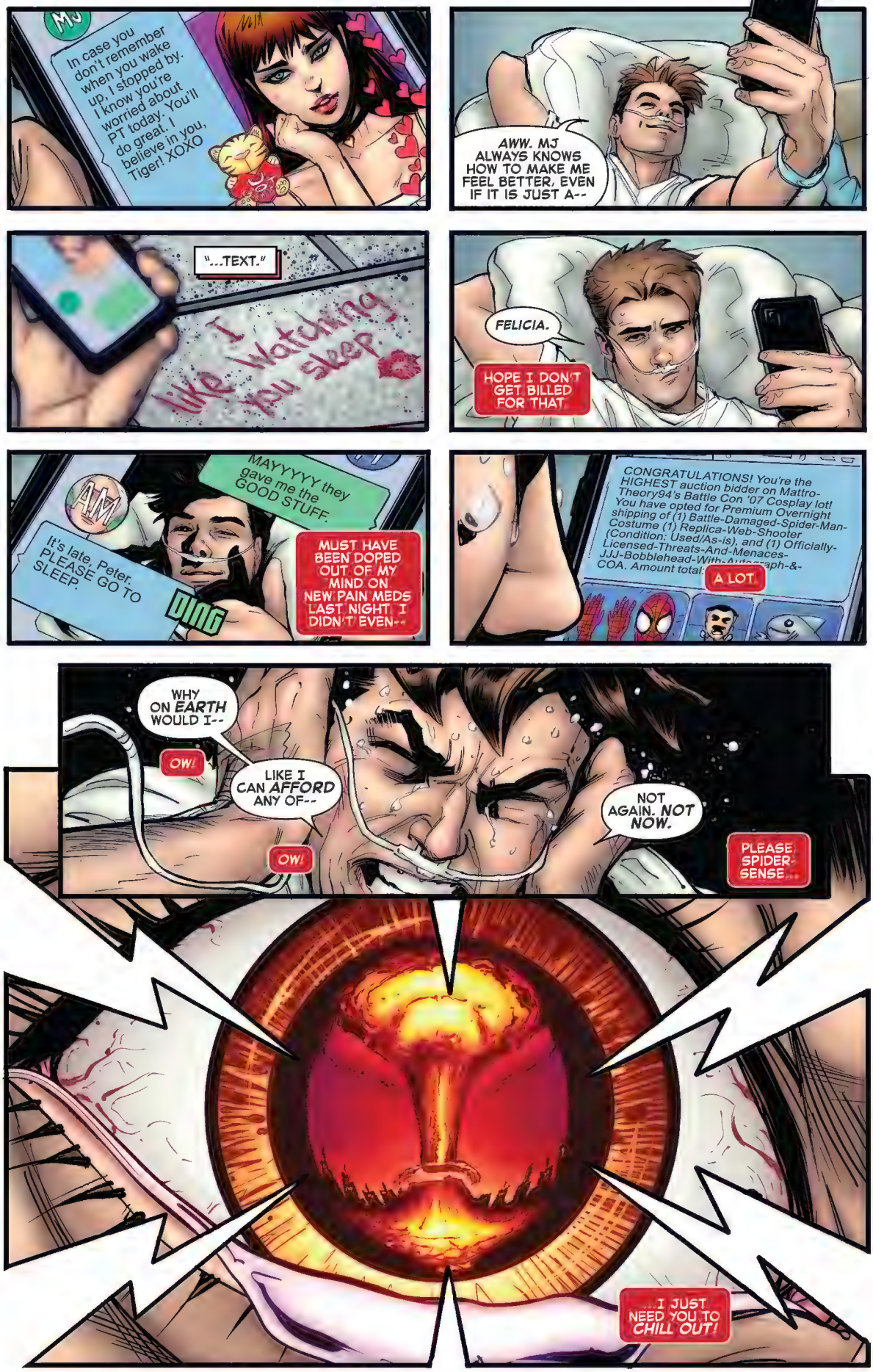
THE REALLY AMAZ
SPIDER-M

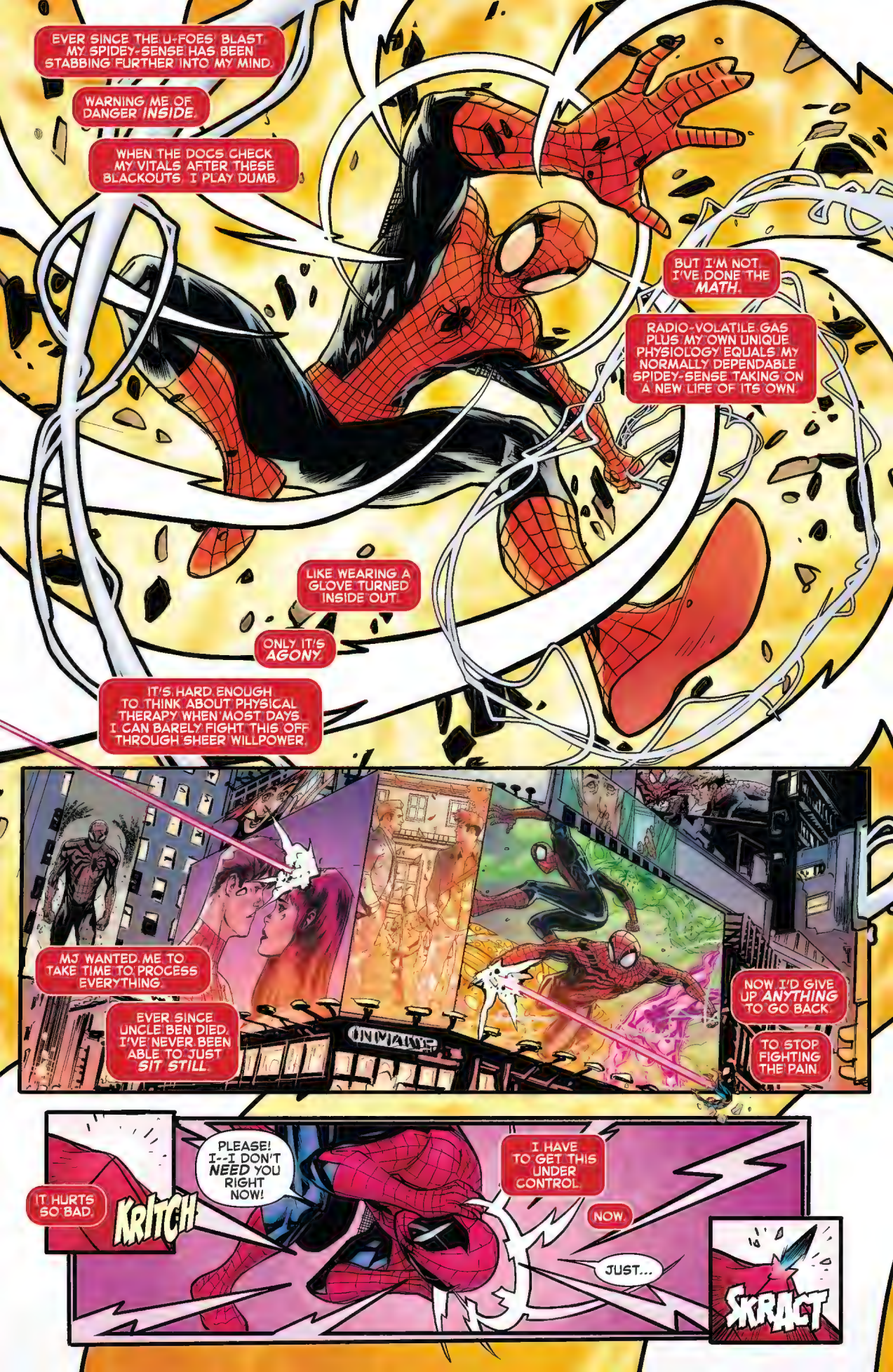
PENTHOUSE INFINITY POOL.
Lower East Side. Beyond Tower.

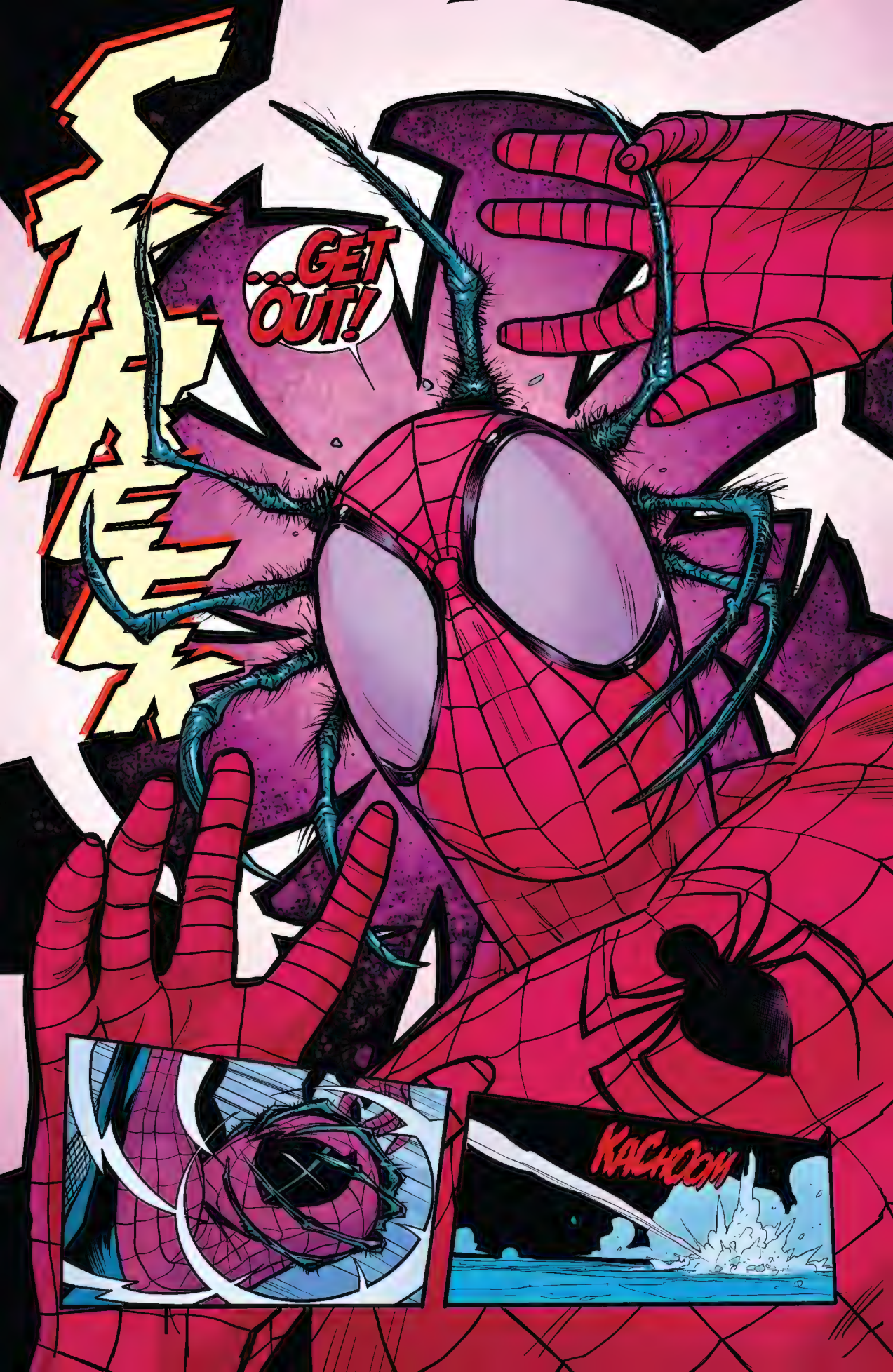
THAT'S MY BEN.
OUR BEN, JANINE.
THANKS, LANGSTON.

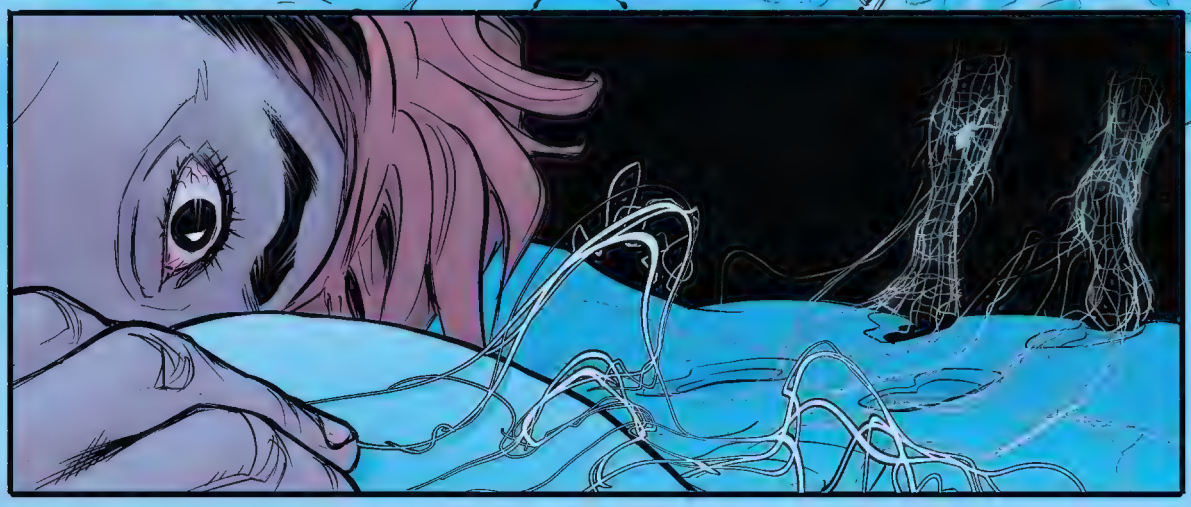

"SPIDER-MAN GOES BEYOND."
"SPIDER-MAN: A MENACE... TO CRIME?"
WHO WRITES THESE?
SPIDER-MAN GOES BEYOND
MENACE TO CRIME
GLORY GRANT. DAILY BUGLE.
BEYOND MUST BE KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON OVER THERE WITH THESE GLOWING P.R. CAMPAIGNS.
NO COMMENT.
SURE. KEEP YOUR SECRETS THEN.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS IN TOWN?
DEDICATING THE NEW FIRST RESPONDERS' WING AT MCCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.
I KNOW THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL TOO. BEN AND I FELT AWFUL.
BUT BEN REASSURES ME THAT GOOD GUYS ARE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OUT THERE SO WE CAN HAVE BETTER LIVES IN HERE.
DING
Hi, Janine. Passing along a message from Ben in the field. 'Doing great, don't wait up.' Good night. --M
HMMM. BEN'S TOO BUSY TO TEXT HIMSELF, OR--
ANYTHING ELSE, MISS?
NO, THANK YOU.
IT IS LIGHTS OUT.
OH, ALL RIGHT.
KLIK
I NEVER GOT USED TO THAT WHEN I WAS ON THE INSIDE.
INSIDE. OUTSIDE.
HEROES. VILLIANS.
I GUESS WE'RE ALL DOING TIME SOMEWHERE.

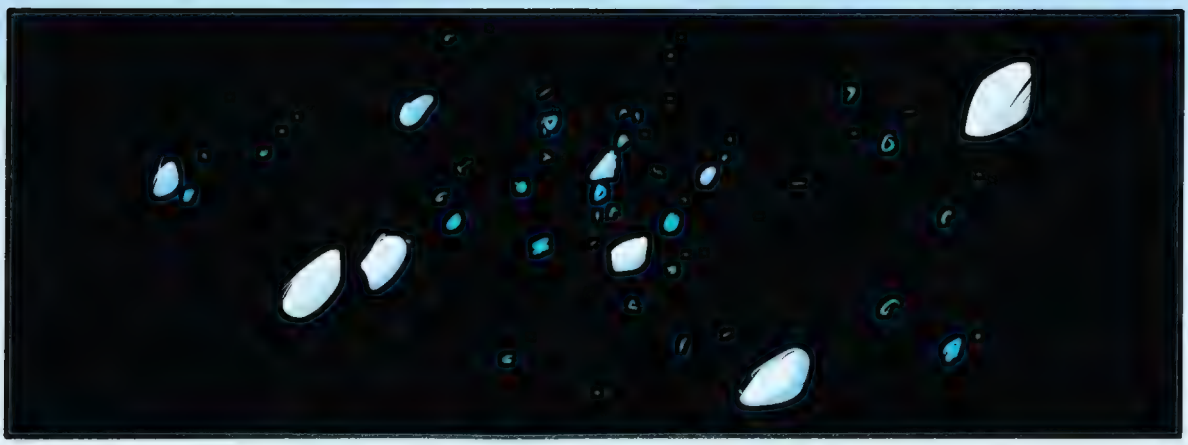
PETER BENJAMIN PARKER!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME TELL MY GOOD FRIEND MAY PARKER THAT YOU GAVE UP ON PHYSICAL THERAPY THE FIRST DAY!
I--I JUST CAN'T TODAY.
CAN'T OR WON'T?
SURE. YEAH. THAT ONE.
QUITTING ISN'T AN OPTION WHEN YOU STILL HAVE FOLK OUT THERE WHO CARE FOR YOU, PETER.
"OUT THERE"? DO YOU MEAN PEOPLE IN HERE DON'T CARE ABOUT ME, LOIS?
DON'T SASS ME, PARKER, AND DON'T WASTE MY TIME. YOUR UNCLE TAUGHT YOU BETTER THAN THAT.
DID MAY TELL HER ABOUT THE TIME I HAD THE FLU WHEN I WAS A KID? NOT EXACTLY INSPIRING.
PUSH THAT CALL BUTTON WHEN YOU'RE READY TO DO THE WORK!
TO SUMMON AUNT MAY'S PERSONAL NURSE RATCHED?
YEAH, NO THANKS.
AT LEAST NURSE MJ STILL MAKES HOUSE CALLS.


MJ
In case you don't remember when you woke up, I stopped by. I know you're worried about PT today. You'll do great. I believe in you, Tiger! XOXO
AWW. MJ ALWAYS KNOWS HOW TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, EVEN IF IT IS JUST A--
"...TEXT."
I like watching you sleep
FELICIA.
HOPE I DON'T GET BILLED FOR THAT.
AM
MAYYYYY they gave me the GOOD STUFF.
It's late, Peter. PLEASE GO TO SLEEP.
DING
MUST HAVE BEEN DOPED OUT OF MY MIND ON NEW PAIN MEDS LAST NIGHT. I DIDN'T EVEN--
CONGRATULATIONS! You're the HIGHEST auction bidder on Mattro-Theory94's Battle Con '07 Cosplay lot! You have opted for Premium Overnight shipping of (1) Battle-Damaged-Spider-Man-Costume (1) Replica-Web-Shooter (Condition: Used/As-is), and (1) Officially-Licensed-Threats-And-Menaces-JJJ-Bobblehead-With-Autograph-&-COA. Amount total:
A LOT.
WHY ON EARTH WOULD I--
OW!
LIKE I CAN AFFORD ANY OF--
OW!
NOT AGAIN. NOT NOW.
PLEASE SPIDER-SENSE...
...I JUST NEED YOU TO CHILL OUT!

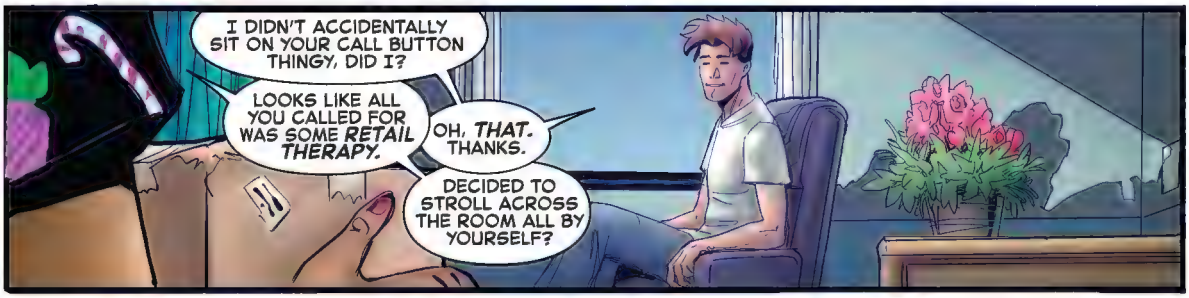

EVER SINCE THE U-FOES' BLAST MY SPIDEY-SENSE HAS BEEN STABBING FURTHER INTO MY MIND.
WARNING ME OF DANGER *INSIDE*.
WHEN THE DOCS CHECK MY VITALS AFTER THESE BLACKOUTS, I PLAY DUMB.
BUT I'M NOT. I'VE DONE THE *MATH*.
RADIO-VOLATILE GAS PLUS MY OWN UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY EQUALS MY NORMALLY DEPENDABLE SPIDEY-SENSE TAKING ON A NEW LIFE OF ITS OWN.
LIKE WEARING A GLOVE TURNED INSIDE OUT.
ONLY IT'S *AGONY*.
IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT PHYSICAL THERAPY WHEN MOST DAYS I CAN BARELY FIGHT THIS OFF THROUGH SHEER WILLPOWER.
MJ WANTED ME TO TAKE TIME TO PROCESS EVERYTHING.
EVER SINCE UNCLE BEN DIED, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO JUST *SIT STILL*.
NOW I'D GIVE UP *ANYTHING* TO GO BACK
TO STOP FIGHTING THE PAIN
IT HURTS SO BAD.
KRITCH
PLEASE! I--I DON'T *NEED* YOU RIGHT NOW!
I HAVE TO GET THIS UNDER CONTROL
NOW.
JUST...
SKRACT

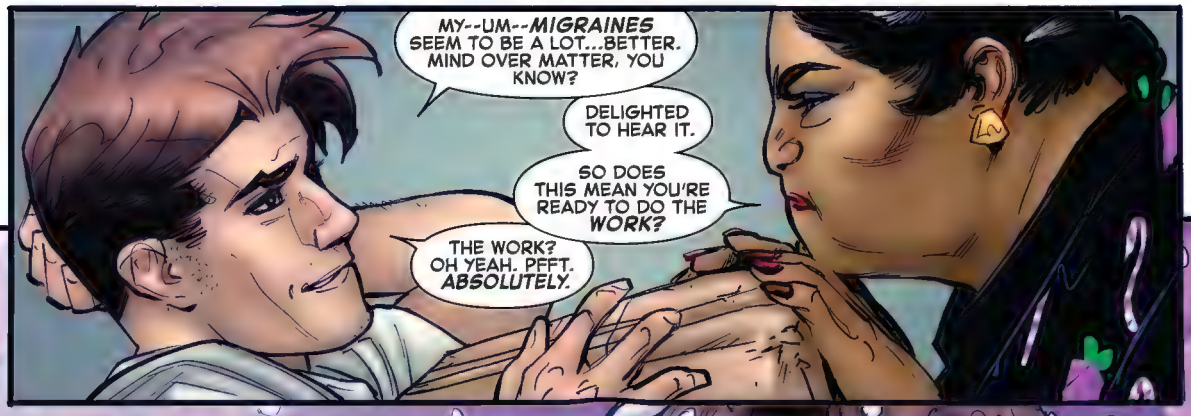

...GET OUT!
KACHOOM

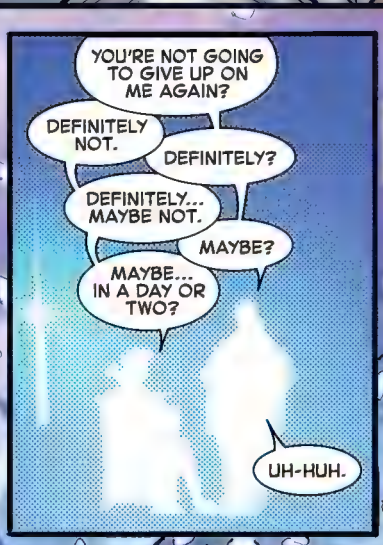




PEACE ON EARTH
PETER BENJAMIN PARKER...
...AT LEAST YOU ARE NO LONGER IN PAIN.


I DIDN'T ACCIDENTALLY SIT ON YOUR CALL BUTTON THINGY, DID I?
LOOKS LIKE ALL YOU CALLED FOR WAS SOME *RETAIL THERAPY.*
OH, *THAT.* THANKS.
DECIDED TO STROLL ACROSS THE ROOM ALL BY YOURSELF?


MY--UM--*MIGRAINES* SEEM TO BE A LOT...BETTER. MIND OVER MATTER, YOU KNOW?
DELIGHTED TO HEAR IT.
SO DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE READY TO DO THE *WORK?*
THE WORK? OH YEAH. PFFT. *ABSOLUTELY.*


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON ME AGAIN?
DEFINITELY NOT.
DEFINITELY?
DEFINITELY... MAYBE NOT.
MAYBE?
MAYBE... IN A DAY OR TWO?
UH-HUH.

"I JUST NEED TO GET MY FEET BACK UNDER ME FIRST."
AH, NEW YORK...

...I'LL TAKE SPIDEY THERAPY WITH YOU ANY DAY.
WHERE THE ONLY THING I FEEL IS THE WIND IN MY FACE AND A COOL BREEZE BLOWING UP MY KNOCK-OFF TIGHTS.
NEED TO JUMP-START MY OTHER SENSES AND GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS, SO TO SPEAK.
SHOOTER DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A TOY. MAYBE SALVAGED FROM AN OLD SCARLET SPIDER COSTUME? POWER SUPPLY PROBABLY JUST NEEDS A TWEAK.
WHO NEEDS BEYOND'S FANCY UPGRADES WHEN YOU HAVE MATTRO-THEORY94 FEBREEZEING YOUR MASKS?
STILL A BIT SHAKY AND STIFF. BETTER GET STARTED.
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE NEW YORK AND SPIDER-BEN WILL NEED SPIDER-MAN TO--
Parki
HELP!
STOP

THIS IS IT. TIME FOR SPIDER-MAN'S SENSATIONAL RETURN!
CARJACKERS! HELP!
SECURITY EN ROUTE!
OR, AT LEAST, MY SLIGHTLY-OUT-OF-SHAPE TEAM-UP WITH SOME RENT-A-COP.
SHOOT, BAE!
I--I CAN'T SEE NOTHIN'! WHY'D YOU LET 'EM PEPPER SPRAY ME?!
ON MY WORST DAY I COULD TAKE THESE TWO.
GET IN! YOU DRIVE!
CACHAK
I THINK THAT SHOULD DO IT.
VROOOOM
WAIT, WHAT'S THIS SHIFT THINGY?
DIDN'T YOU LEARN HOW TO DRIVE STICK?! IT'S A MANUAL TRANSMISSION!
NO! DID YOU?!
VROOOOM
I LOVE STUPID CRIMINALS.

HEY, KIDS! THERE'S BETTER WAYS TO GET THAT NEW CAR SMELL.
EWWW!!!
WATCH THAT LOONEY FAKE SPIDER-MAN, BAE!
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE TWO OF US NOW...
...AND I AM THE AMAZING SPIDER-
THWIP
GO-WEBS-GO!
OH YEAHHH!
UH-OH.
AAAIEE!
KAHOOM
MATTRO-THEORY94 WILL BE GETTING A VERY NEGATIVE PRODUCT REVIEW.

HRRN--
HEY! SPIDER-FAKE!
I'M NOT--
STOMP
URK.
OR MAYBE I AM.
SLUGGISH.
BODY IS STILL SHOT.
NO RESPONSE TIME WITHOUT MY--
STOMP
FWAM
THOK
FWAK
TEN-FOUR. THE CAPTAIN IS ON IT.
OH, THANK PAUL BLART.
SECURITY.
STAY BACK, PIG!
BLAM BLAM
FWANG FWANG
HUH. THAT SILHOUETTE IS A BIT MORE ON THE HEROIC SIDE THAN I WAS EXPECTING...
...AND BULLETPROOF?

THAT IS ENOUGH.
OH.
OKAY.
HE MAKES WAY MORE SENSE.
UNLIKE MY SPIDER-SENSE WHICH ISN'T WARNING ME ABOUT THE GUN.
BLAM
TOK
THE BULLET.
OR CAPTAIN AMERICA'S GLORIOUS, MADE-IN-THE-U.S.-OF-A...
TENK
...SHIELD!
FWANG
I MAY HAVE PUT THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE ON THIS WHOLE "RETURN" THING.
I AM SO SORRY, KID.
I JUST THOUGHT, YOU KNOW...
THWIP-PPPPTHH
...YOU USUALLY DUCK.

PETER.
AW, CAN I STAY UP, AUNT MAY?
DRINK UP ALL THIS BROTH AND YOUR UNCLE WILL TUCK YOU IN. I THINK HE HAS SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU.
REALLY?
YES, REALLY. WE DON'T LIE OR STEAL IN THIS FAMILY, REMEMBER?
YES, MAY.
FEVER IS DOWN A BIT.
DOES YOUR HEAD STILL HURT? I MIXED IN SOME MEDICINE TO TAKE AWAY YOUR SENSE OF PAIN, I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE THE TASTE.
MY... SENSE?
YES. IT'S STILL THERE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
GOOD NIGHT, PETER.
STILL... THERE?
TAP TAP TAP
NO...
51

NO! STAY OUT!
FWOOM
PLEASE... I CAN'T...
THERE'S NO HIDING FROM HIM.

PETER?
UNCLE BEN!
GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, SON. YOUR AUNT DIDN'T WANT ME GIVING YOU THE IDEA THAT BREAKING RULES WINS YOU PRIZES, BUT I SWEET-TALKED HER.
YOU PAID FOR THE GUM I TOOK FROM MR. LUIZ'S?
LOOK. I DON'T KNOW MUCH, BUT ONE THING I DO KNOW IS WE DON'T USUALLY GET REWARDED FOR DOING WHAT'S RIGHT.
TRUTH IS, MOST OF THE TIME...
...IT COSTS US SOMETHING.
FOR A GOOD SOLDIER, SOMETIMES IT MEANS CATCHING SHRAPNEL, OR THE FLU ON A LONG MARCH BACK TO MR. LUIZ'S, OR SO I HEAR.
BEING A GOOD PERSON MEANS NEVER GIVING UP ON THOSE HARD MARCHES, OR TURNING AWAY FROM THE RIGHT THING JUST BECAUSE IT HURTS.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DECIDE EVERY DAY IF YOU'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PAY THAT PRICE, OR LEAVE IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PAY FOR YOU.
THESE LESSONS WERE HARD WON, M'BOY. NEVER GIVE THEM UP, WHATEVER THE COST. AND DON'T FORGET THEM, OKAY?
NEVER, SIR.
NEVER?

"TILL THE DAY I DIE."
C'MON, WEB-HEAD!
POP
I KNOW YOU'RE STILL THERE.
I CAN'T FEEL YOU... BUT I WANT TO AGAIN.
I NEED TO.
WHATEVER THE COST...I CAN TAKE IT.

I CAN TAKE IT.

NEVER GIVE UP.

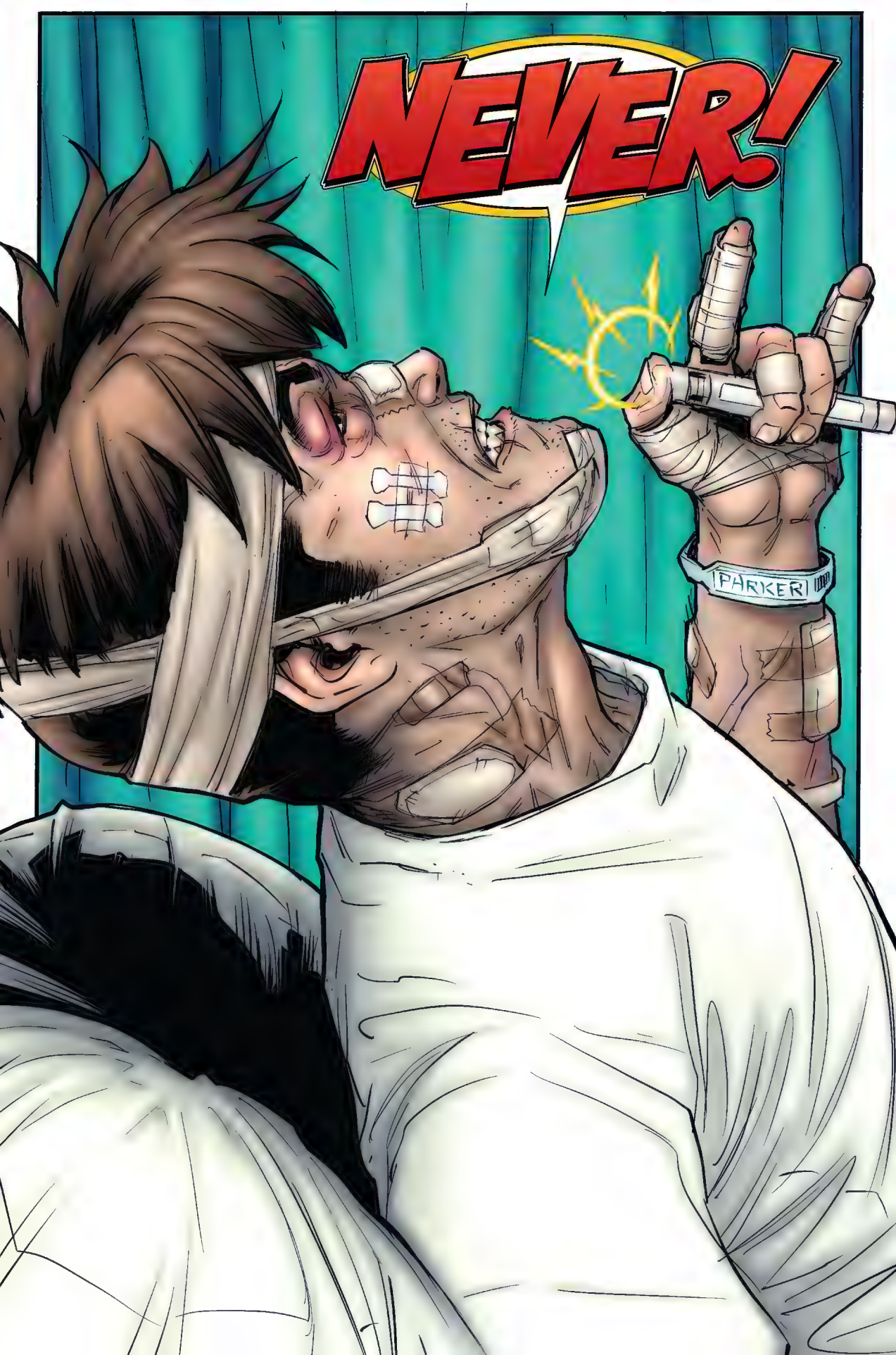
THMP

RRRRRRRRRR!!!

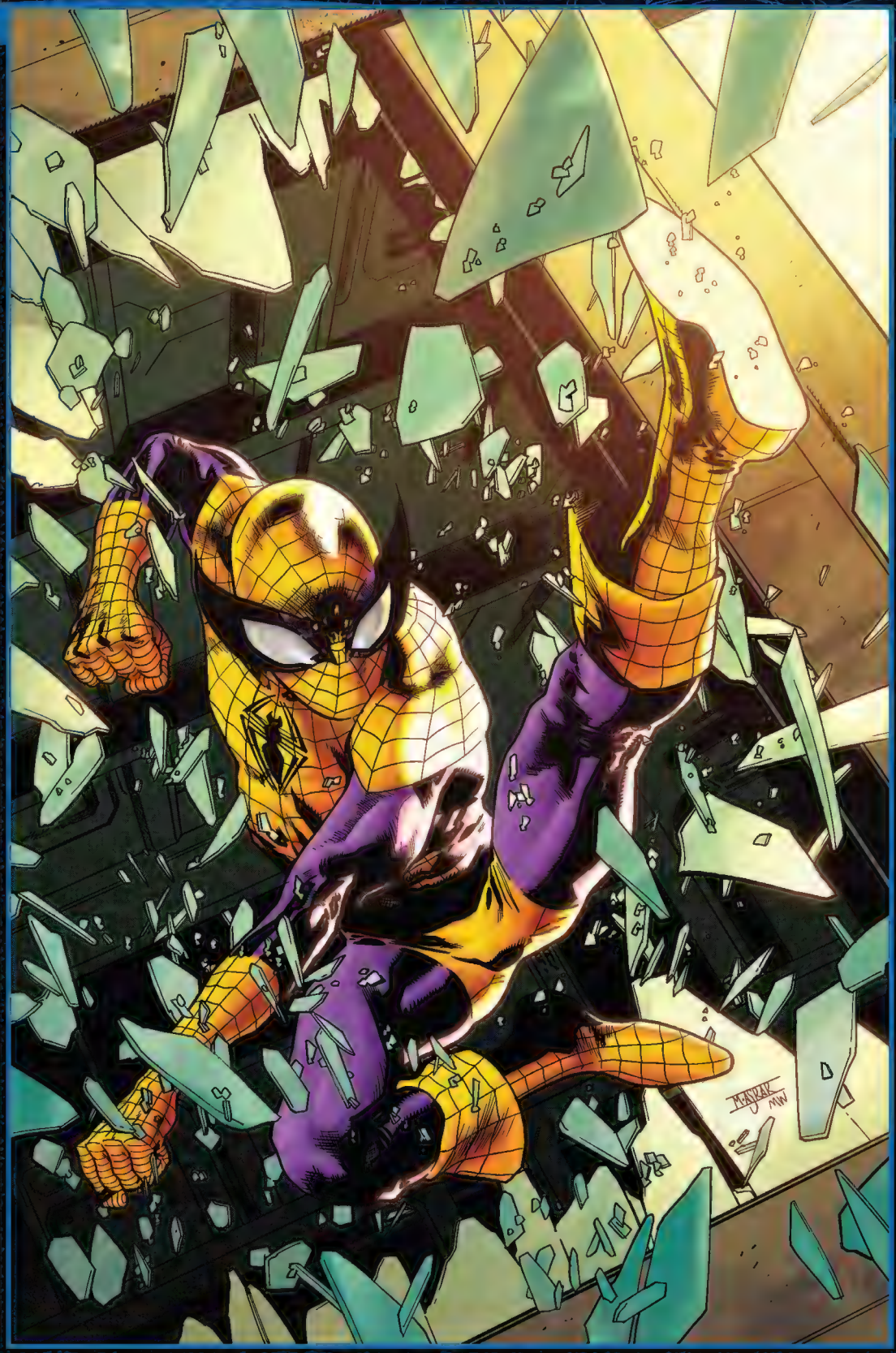
THMP
THMP

THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP

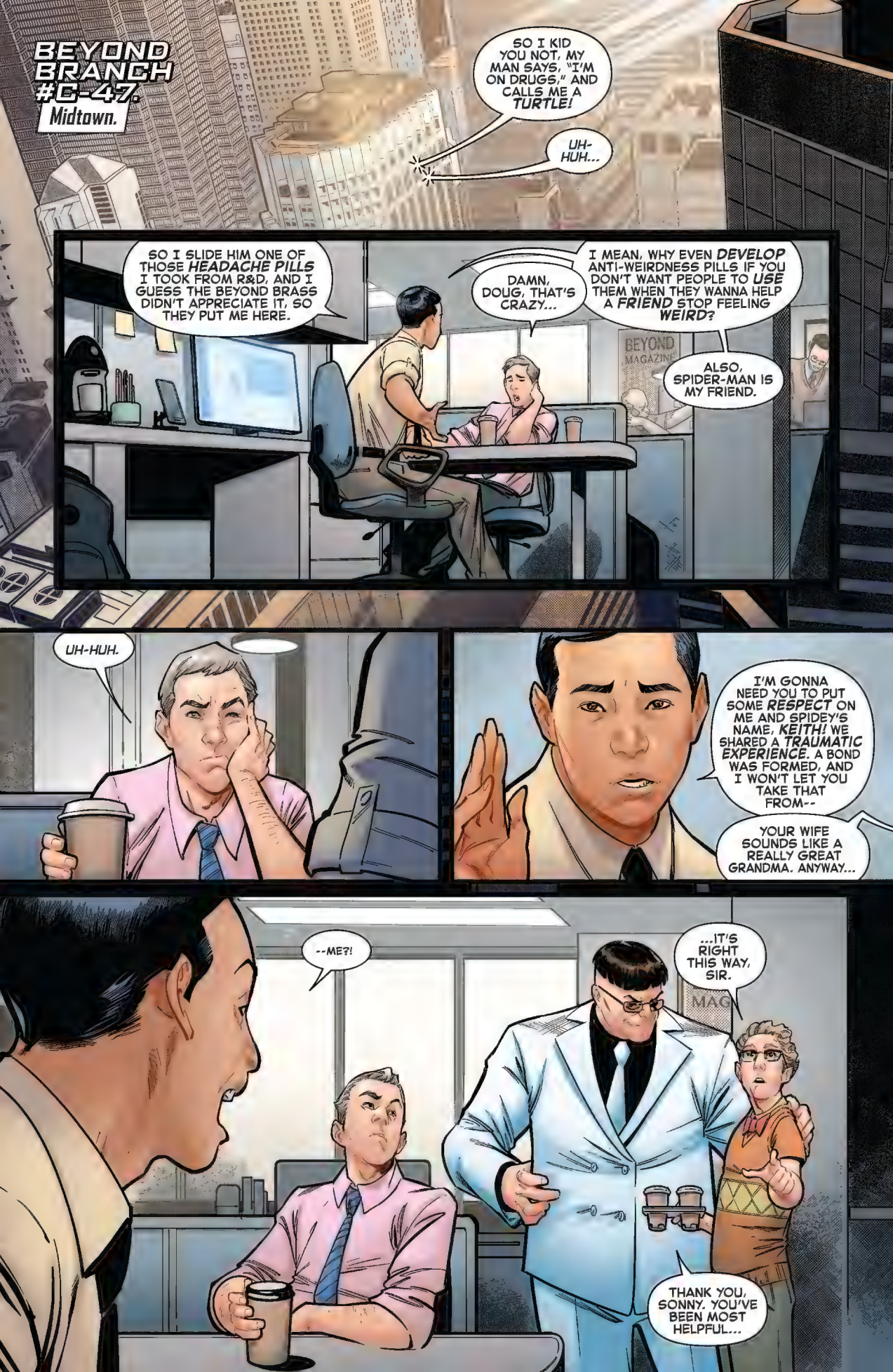
N-N...


NEVER!
PARKER

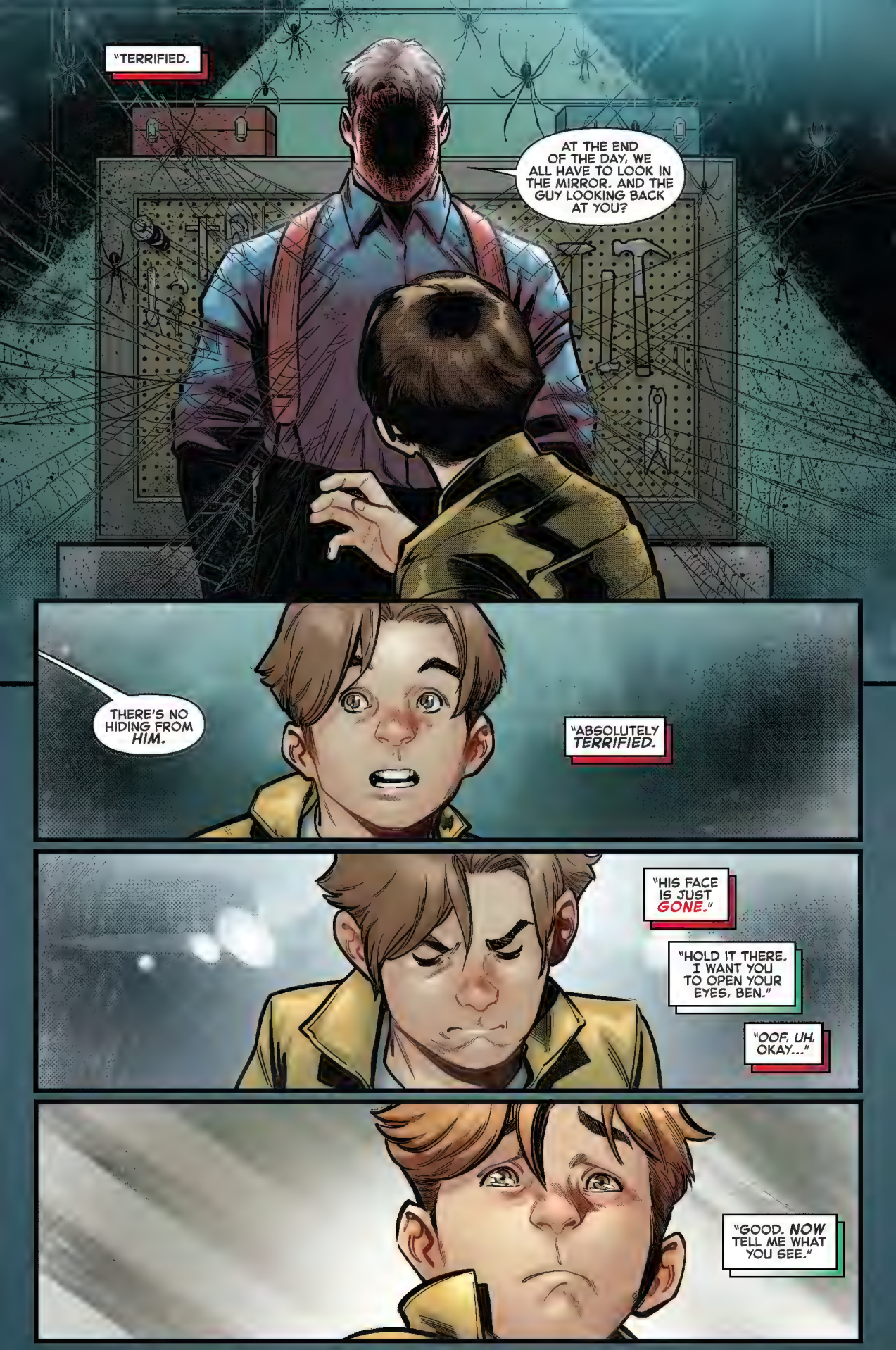
#81 DEVIL'S REIGN VARIANT BY
MAHMUD ASRAR & **MATTHEW WILSON**



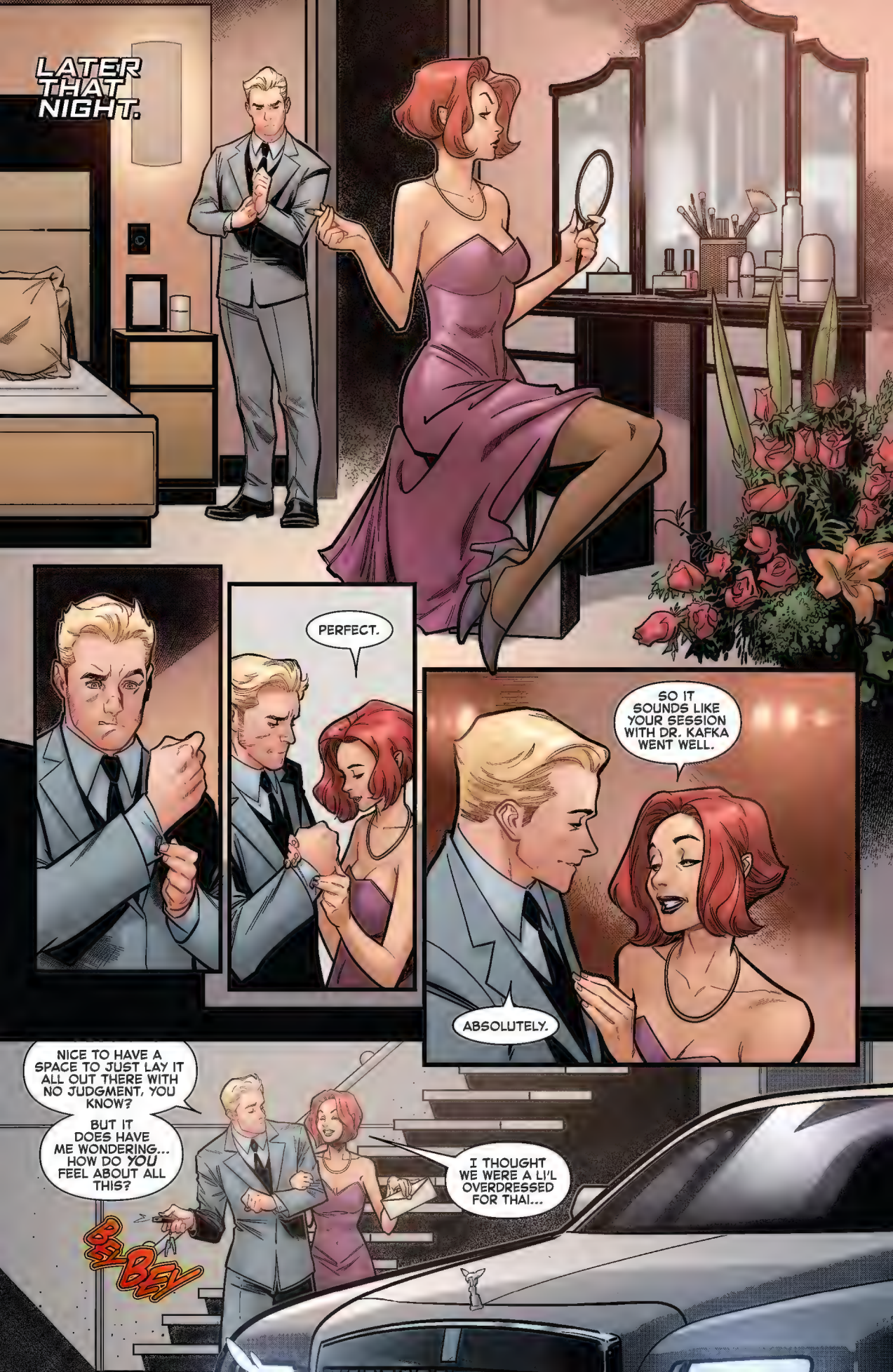
ARTHUR ADAMS
7-9
2021
SAUREZ

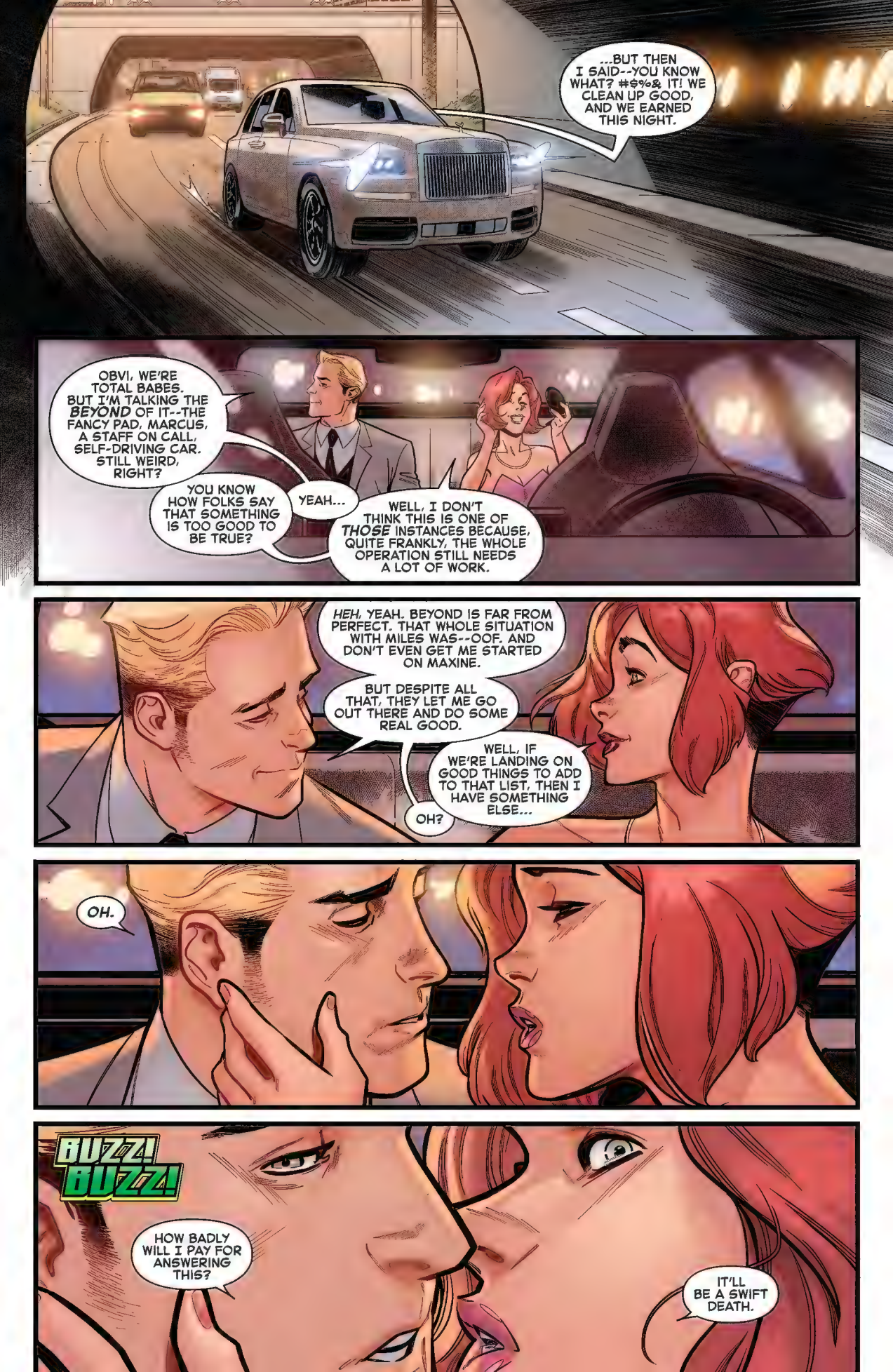

BEYOND BRANCH #C-47.
Midtown.
SO I KID YOU NOT, MY MAN SAYS, "I'M ON DRUGS," AND CALLS ME A TURTLE!
UH-HUH...
SO I SLIDE HIM ONE OF THOSE HEADACHE PILLS I TOOK FROM R&D, AND I GUESS THE BEYOND BRASS DIDN'T APPRECIATE IT, SO THEY PUT ME HERE.
DAMN, DOUG, THAT'S CRAZY...
I MEAN, WHY EVEN DEVELOP ANTI-WEIRDNESS PILLS IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO USE THEM WHEN THEY WANNA HELP A FRIEND STOP FEELING WEIRD?
BEYOND MAGAZINE
ALSO, SPIDER-MAN IS MY FRIEND.
UH-HUH.
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO PUT SOME RESPECT ON ME AND SPIDEY'S NAME, KEITH! WE SHARED A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE. A BOND WAS FORMED, AND I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THAT FROM--
YOUR WIFE SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY GREAT GRANDMA. ANYWAY...
--ME?!
...IT'S RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR.
MAG
THANK YOU, SONNY. YOU'VE BEEN MOST HELPFUL...

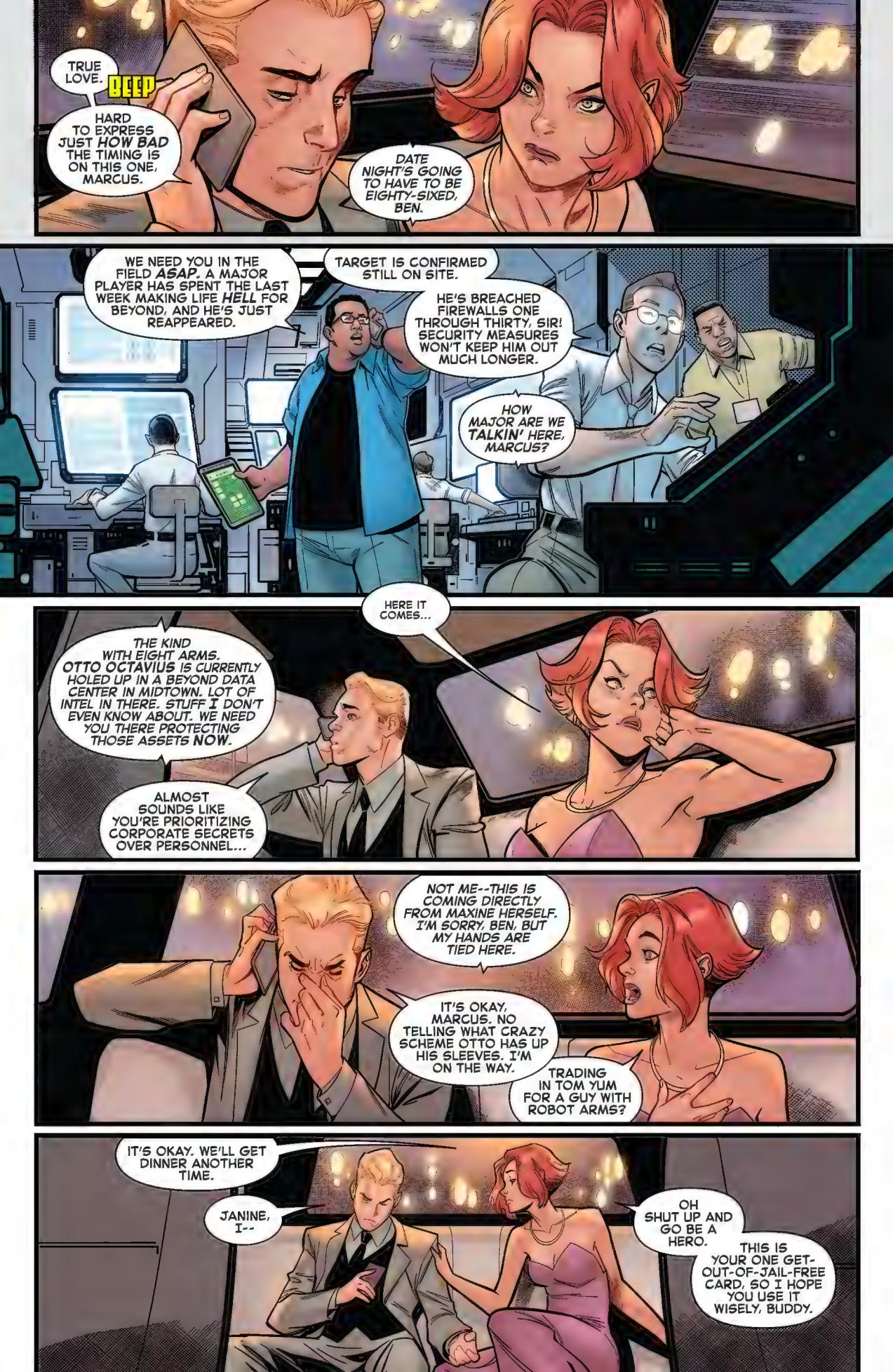
...BUT I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE!
DUDE! WHY WOULD YOU LET FRIGGIN' DOCTOR OCTOPUS IN?!
I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST SOME OLD GUY LOOKING FOR HIS GRANDSON!
UGGGH!
BUT MY COFFEE-- GAACK!
SILENCE, DOLTS. THOUGH I AM GRATEFUL I NO LONGER HAVE TO KEEP UP THIS DODDERING OLD MAN FACADE.
I JUST GOT KIDNAPPED, MAN. ANOTHER WRITE-UP AND THEY'RE GONNA DOCK MY PAY--
WORRY NOT--I'M NOT HERE TO PREY UPON THE LOWEST RUNG OF THE BEYOND LADDER. NO, I'M HERE SO THAT I MAY CLIMB TO THE TOP!
"AND HOW WOULD YOU SAY THAT MAKES YOU FEEL?"


"TERRIFIED.
AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ALL HAVE TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR. AND THE GUY LOOKING BACK AT YOU?
THERE'S NO HIDING FROM *HIM.*
"ABSOLUTELY *TERRIFIED.*
"HIS FACE IS JUST *GONE.*"
"HOLD IT THERE. I WANT YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES, BEN."
"OOF, UH, OKAY..."
"GOOD. *NOW* TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE."

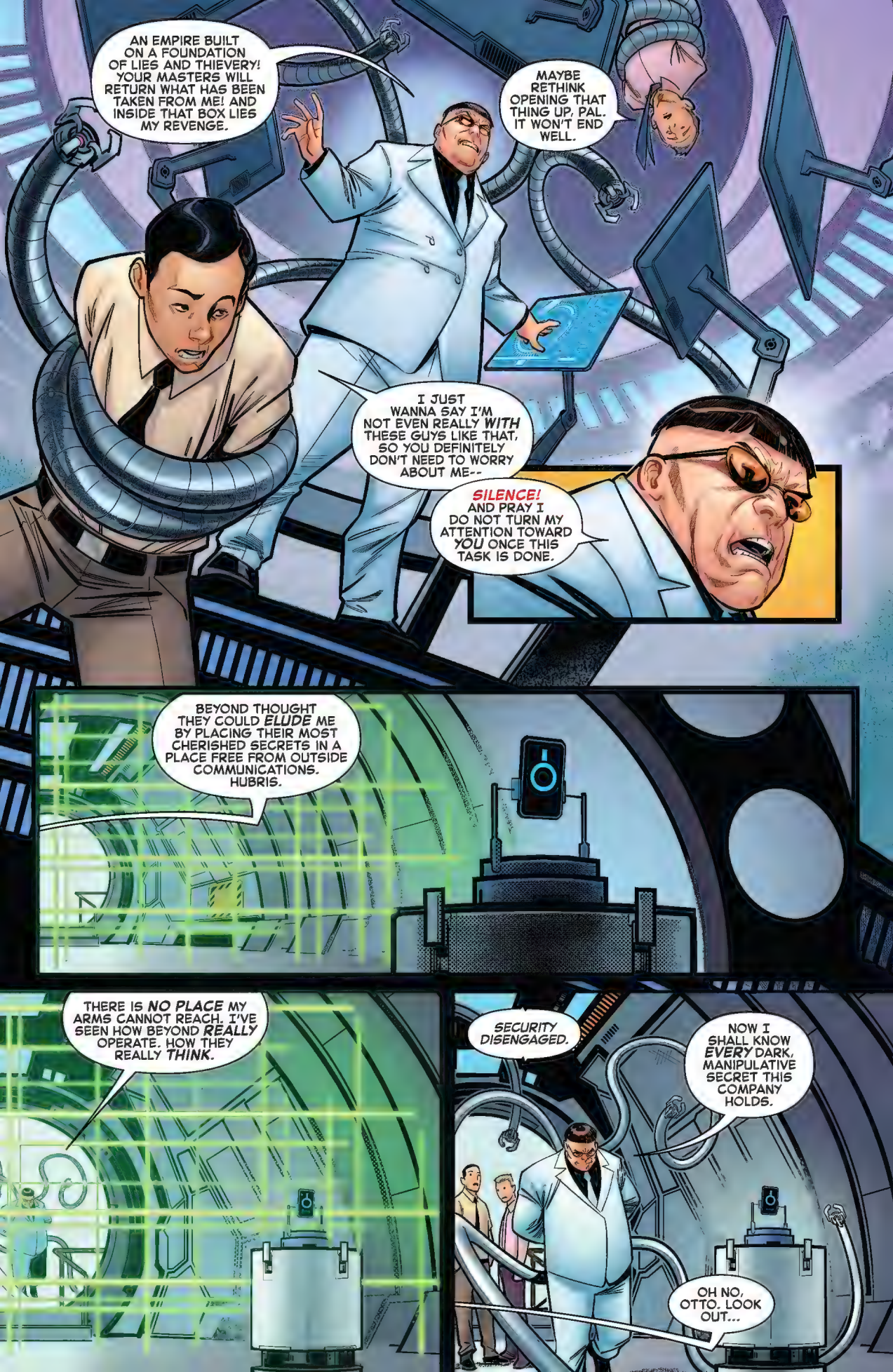
"A FACE. I SEE MY UNCLE'S FACE!
"AND...AND I CAN SEE I LET HIM DOWN."
"AND HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?"
"OVERWHELMED."
OVERWHELMED THAT SOMEONE COULD BELIEVE IN ME SO MUCH...
...IT MAKES ME WANT TO PROVE HIM RIGHT.
OOF, THAT WAS HEAVY.
GOOD. THAT'S GREAT PROGRESS, BEN. HOW DO YOU FEEL?
HONESTLY, DOC?
WAAAH!
AMAZING! ABSOLUTELY TOP-TIER BREAKTHROUGH HERE! CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!
MY PLEASURE, BEN. BUT COULD YOU PLEASE PUT ME DOWN? THIS IS SO NOT APPROPRIATE.


LATER THAT NIGHT.
PERFECT.
SO IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR SESSION WITH DR. KAFKA WENT WELL.
ABSOLUTELY.
I THOUGHT WE WERE A LI'L OVERDRESSED FOR THAI...
NICE TO HAVE A SPACE TO JUST LAY IT ALL OUT THERE WITH NO JUDGMENT, YOU KNOW?
BUT IT DOES HAVE ME WONDERING... HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?
BEEP BEEP


...BUT THEN I SAID--YOU KNOW WHAT? #$%&! IT! WE CLEAN UP GOOD, AND WE EARNED THIS NIGHT.
OBVI, WE'RE TOTAL BABES. BUT I'M TALKING THE BEYOND OF IT--THE FANCY PAD, MARCUS, A STAFF ON CALL, SELF-DRIVING CAR. STILL WEIRD, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW HOW FOLKS SAY THAT SOMETHING IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?
YEAH...
WELL, I DON'T THINK THIS IS ONE OF THOSE INSTANCES BECAUSE, QUITE FRANKLY, THE WHOLE OPERATION STILL NEEDS A LOT OF WORK.
HEH, YEAH. BEYOND IS FAR FROM PERFECT. THAT WHOLE SITUATION WITH MILES WAS--OOF. AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON MAXINE.
BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, THEY LET ME GO OUT THERE AND DO SOME REAL GOOD.
WELL, IF WE'RE LANDING ON GOOD THINGS TO ADD TO THAT LIST, THEN I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE...
OH?
OH.
BUZZ! BUZZ!
HOW BADLY WILL I PAY FOR ANSWERING THIS?
IT'LL BE A SWIFT DEATH.


TRUE LOVE.
BEEP
HARD TO EXPRESS JUST HOW BAD THE TIMING IS ON THIS ONE, MARCUS.
DATE NIGHT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE EIGHTY-SIXED, BEN.
WE NEED YOU IN THE FIELD ASAP. A MAJOR PLAYER HAS SPENT THE LAST WEEK MAKING LIFE HELL FOR BEYOND, AND HE'S JUST REAPPEARED.
TARGET IS CONFIRMED STILL ON SITE.
HE'S BREACHED FIREWALLS ONE THROUGH THIRTY, SIR! SECURITY MEASURES WON'T KEEP HIM OUT MUCH LONGER.
HOW MAJOR ARE WE TALKIN' HERE, MARCUS?
HERE IT COMES...
THE KIND WITH EIGHT ARMS. OTTO OCTAVIUS IS CURRENTLY HOLED UP IN A BEYOND DATA CENTER IN MIDTOWN. LOT OF INTEL IN THERE. STUFF I DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT. WE NEED YOU THERE PROTECTING THOSE ASSETS NOW.
ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE PRIORITIZING CORPORATE SECRETS OVER PERSONNEL...
NOT ME--THIS IS COMING DIRECTLY FROM MAXINE HERSELF. I'M SORRY, BEN, BUT MY HANDS ARE TIED HERE.
IT'S OKAY, MARCUS. NO TELLING WHAT CRAZY SCHEME OTTO HAS UP HIS SLEEVES. I'M ON THE WAY.
TRADING IN TOM YUM FOR A GUY WITH ROBOT ARMS?
IT'S OKAY. WE'LL GET DINNER ANOTHER TIME.
JANINE, I--
OH SHUT UP AND GO BE A HERO.
THIS IS YOUR ONE GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE CARD, SO I HOPE YOU USE IT WISELY, BUDDY.

I'LL THWIP OVER, SAVE A FEW FOLKS, PUNCH AN OLD MAN, AND MEET YOU BACK AT THE APARTMENT FOR LEFTOVERS?
JUST DON'T KEEP A GIRL WAITING *ALL* NIGHT, OKAY?
WELL, WHATEVER MS. GODBE WANTS...
...MS. GODBE GETS!


AN EMPIRE BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF LIES AND THIEVERY! YOUR MASTERS WILL RETURN WHAT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME! AND INSIDE THAT BOX LIES MY REVENGE.
MAYBE RETHINK OPENING THAT THING UP, PAL. IT WON'T END WELL.
I JUST WANNA SAY I'M NOT EVEN REALLY WITH THESE GUYS LIKE THAT, SO YOU DEFINITELY DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME--
SILENCE! AND PRAY I DO NOT TURN MY ATTENTION TOWARD YOU ONCE THIS TASK IS DONE.
BEYOND THOUGHT THEY COULD ELUDE ME BY PLACING THEIR MOST CHERISHED SECRETS IN A PLACE FREE FROM OUTSIDE COMMUNICATIONS. HUBRIS.
THERE IS NO PLACE MY ARMS CANNOT REACH. I'VE SEEN HOW BEYOND REALLY OPERATE. HOW THEY REALLY THINK.
SECURITY DISENGAGED.
NOW I SHALL KNOW EVERY DARK, MANIPULATIVE SECRET THIS COMPANY HOLDS.
OH NO, OTTO. LOOK OUT...

...SPIDER-MAN IS ABOUT TO KICK YOU IN THE FACE!

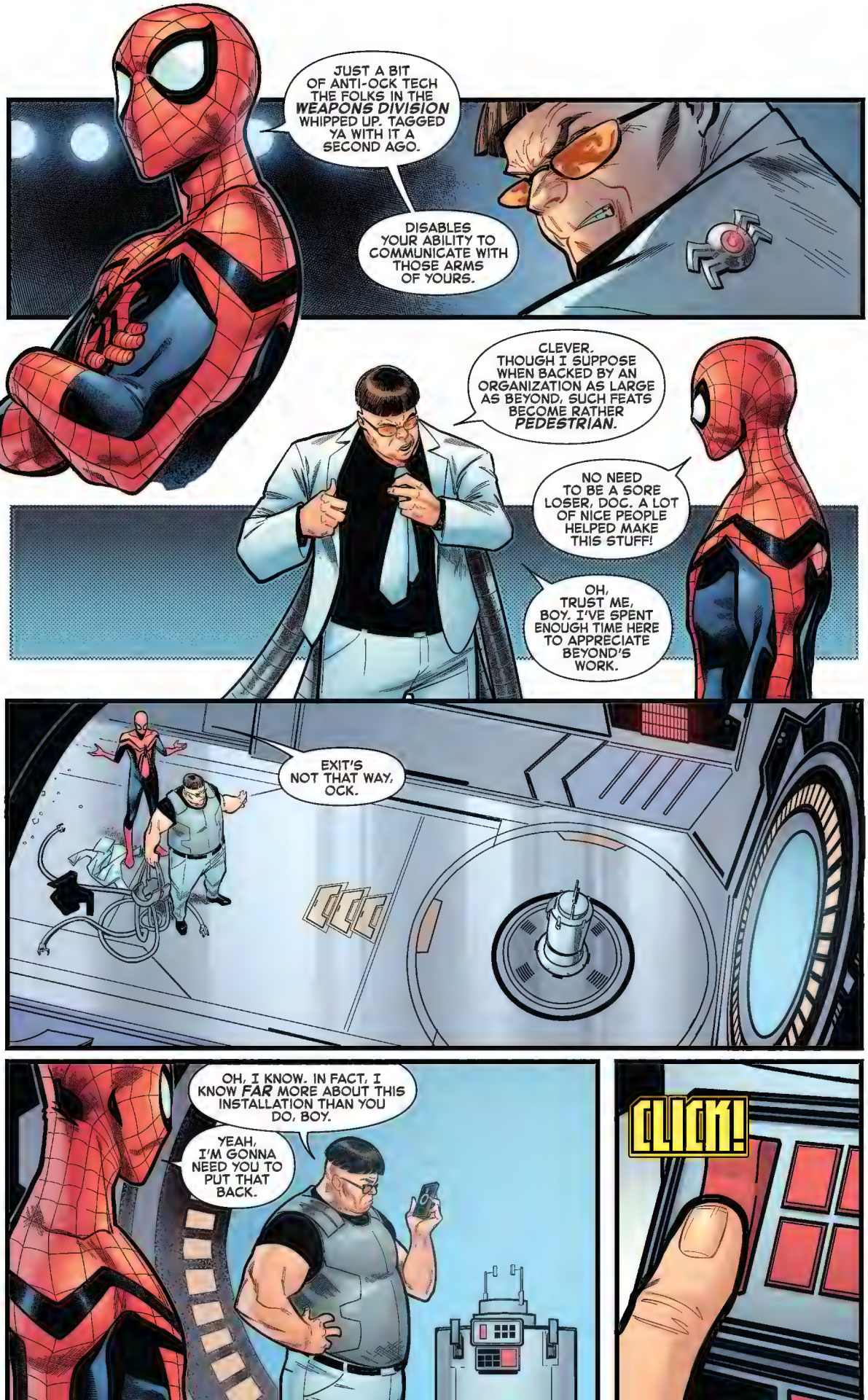
SPIDEY!

THWACK

EGAAAH!

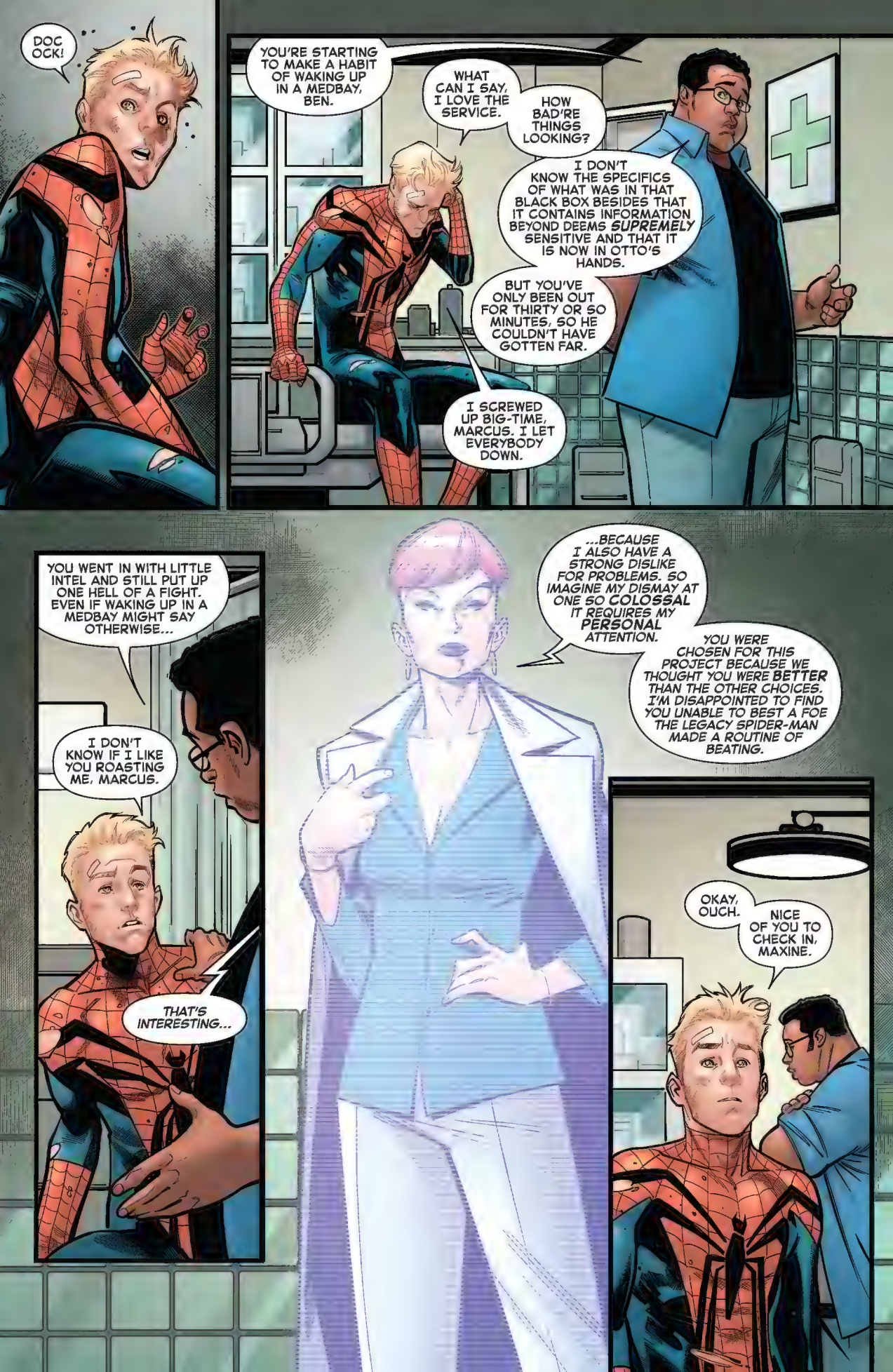
HEY, GIANT TURTLE! LONG TIME NO SEE!
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE NOT TRIPPIN' ANYMORE, MY MAN!
CLASSIC DOUG. MISSED THIS.
I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF OUR BOWL-CUT PROBLEM--THERE A SAFE ROOM OR SOMETHING YOU CAN GET TO?
Y-YEAH, DOWN THE HALL.
TOLD YOU WE WERE FRIENDS!
THWIP
OFFICIAL SPIDER-MAN BUSINESS HOURS ARE BETWEEN NINE AND SIX, DOC. AFRAID I'M GONNA HAVE TO CHARGE YOU TIME AND A HALF FOR THIS BUTT-KICKIN'.
YOU'RE BELOW MY NOTICE, BOY. THOUGH I THINK WE BOTH KNOW WHO THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN IS.
I'M HERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.
FZZZSHH
WELL, THAT'S CRYPTIC.
SOMETHING WAS TAKEN FROM ME. SOMETHING I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF UNTIL I STUMBLED UPON ONE OF YOUR CORPORATE MASTERS' HIDDEN SIDE VENTURES.

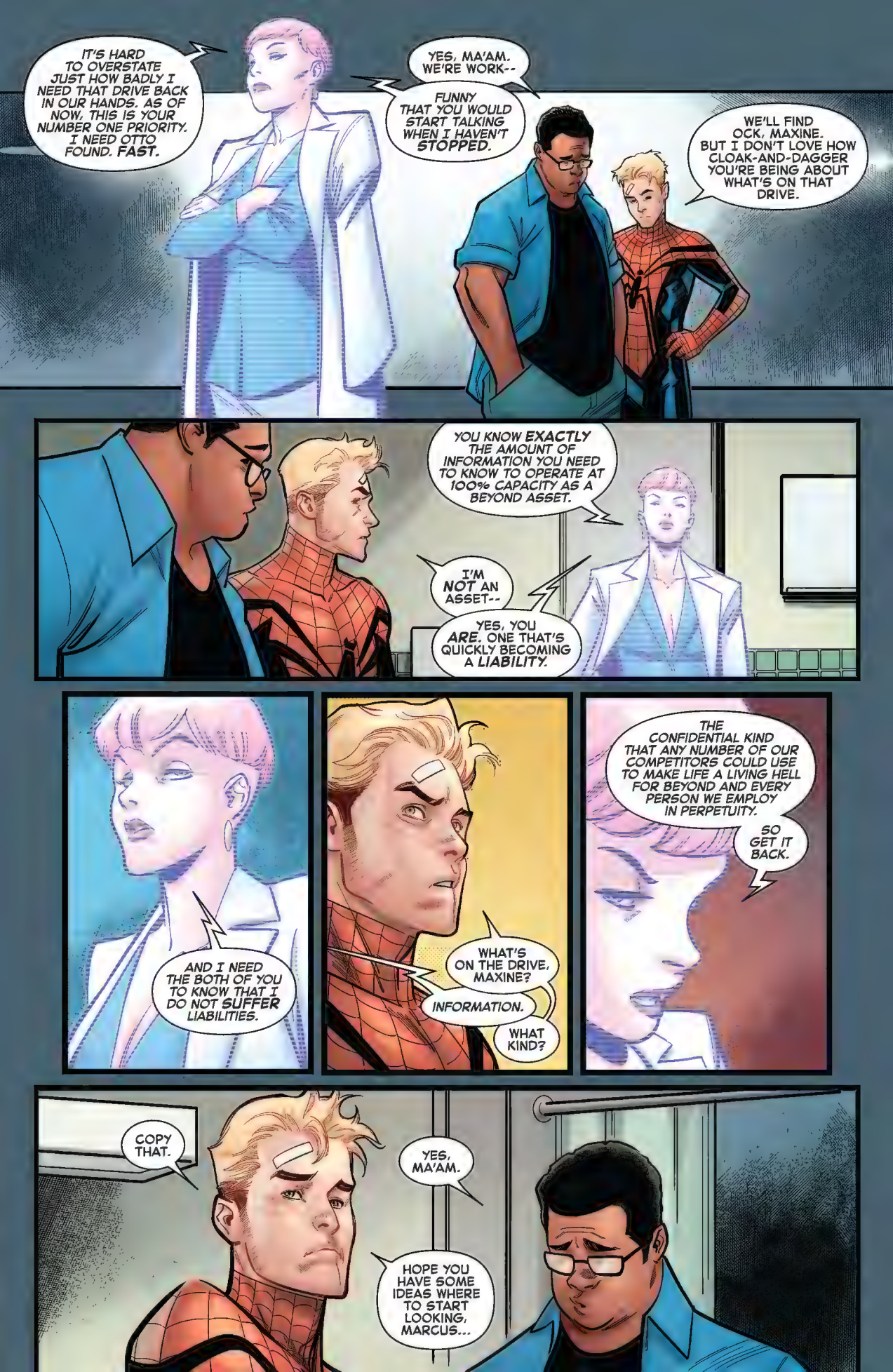
IF EVEN I COULD BE UNKNOWINGLY COMPROMISED, THERE IS NO TELLING HOW DEEP THEIR WELL OF LIES GOES.
HATE TO HEAR IT-- UUUGH!
THWACK
I'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE WHOLE "CORPORATIONS ARE BAD" THING WITH KRAVEN. YOU GUYS SHOULD REALLY TALK MORE!
YOU MISUNDERSTAND-- I THINK CORPORATIONS ARE GREAT.
THEY MAKE YOU LOTS OF MONEY AND ARE EASILY MANIPULABLE FOR MASTER PLANS.
ENOUGH TALK! FACE ME!
HUH?
NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, DOC. HAPPENS TO EVERYBODY.
WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!


JUST A BIT OF ANTI-OCK TECH THE FOLKS IN THE WEAPONS DIVISION WHIPPED UP. TAGGED YA WITH IT A SECOND AGO.
DISABLES YOUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE ARMS OF YOURS.
CLEVER. THOUGH I SUPPOSE WHEN BACKED BY AN ORGANIZATION AS LARGE AS BEYOND, SUCH FEATS BECOME RATHER PEDESTRIAN.
NO NEED TO BE A SORE LOSER, DOC. A LOT OF NICE PEOPLE HELPED MAKE THIS STUFF!
OH, TRUST ME, BOY. I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME HERE TO APPRECIATE BEYOND'S WORK.
EXIT'S NOT THAT WAY, OCK.
OH, I KNOW. IN FACT, I KNOW FAR MORE ABOUT THIS INSTALLATION THAN YOU DO, BOY.
YEAH, I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO PUT THAT BACK.
CLICK!

SEE, THIS IS WHY YOU DON'T MONOLOGUE, BEN! THOUGHT WITHOUT HIS ARMS...
HEY, THAT'S CHEATING!
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
NNNF. OKAY, I'LL ADMIT--NNF--THAT WAS PRETTY SMOOTH. SNEAKY--NNF--BUT SMOOTH.
I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON YOU. I WILL HAVE WHAT IS MINE.
THE THING ABOUT THAT IS I CAN'T LET YOU DO--
KRUSH
GAAAH!
WHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHA
SSSZZZT
NNNGGGH--
DAMMIT, OTTO!

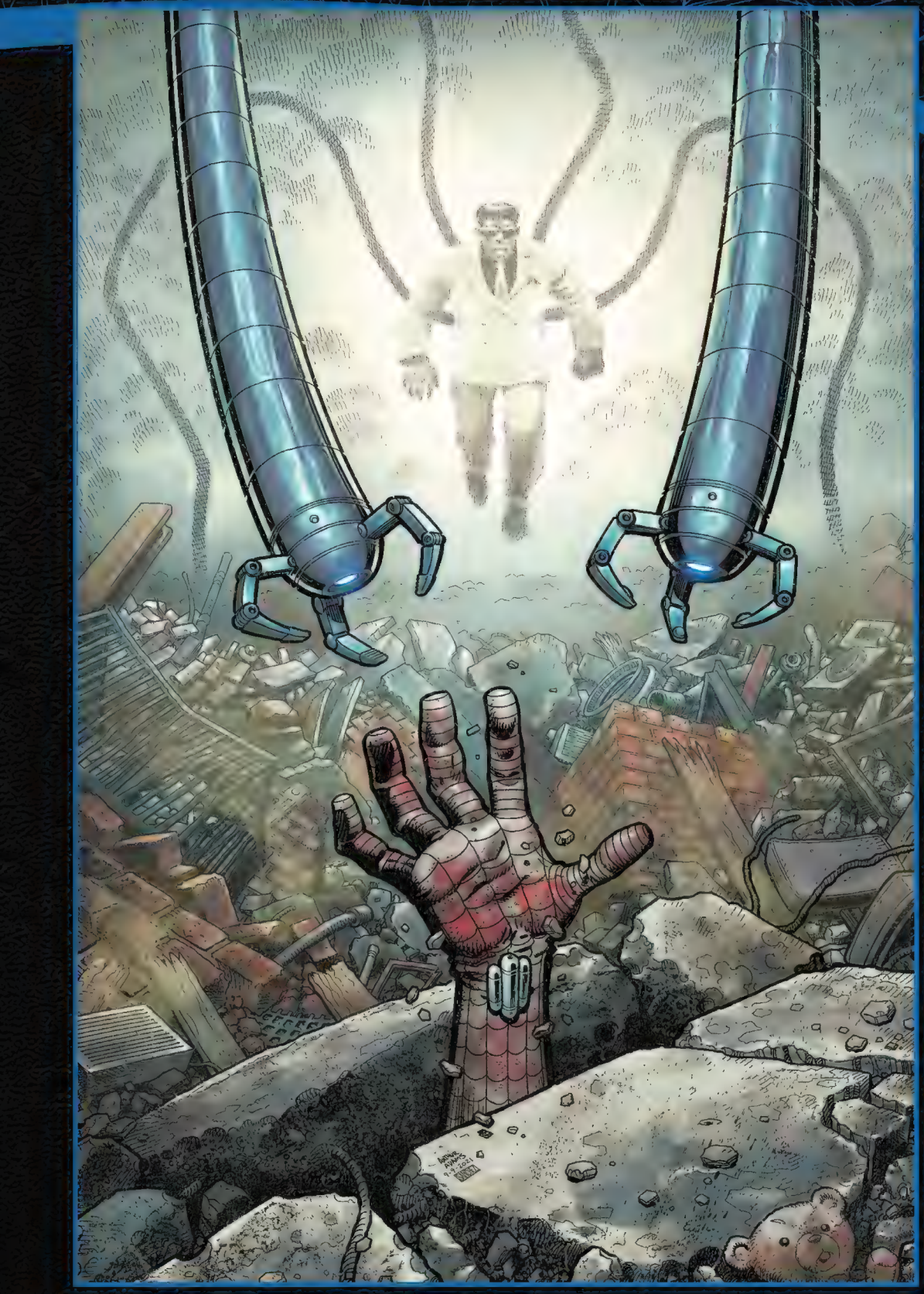
GUUUH!
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
MEDIOCRE.
WHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHU
THUMP
UGGGH...
THIS WAS MERELY A PRELUDE, BOY. I PRAY FOR YOUR MASTERS' SAKE THAT THEY HIRE SOMEONE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR WHEN I RETURN.

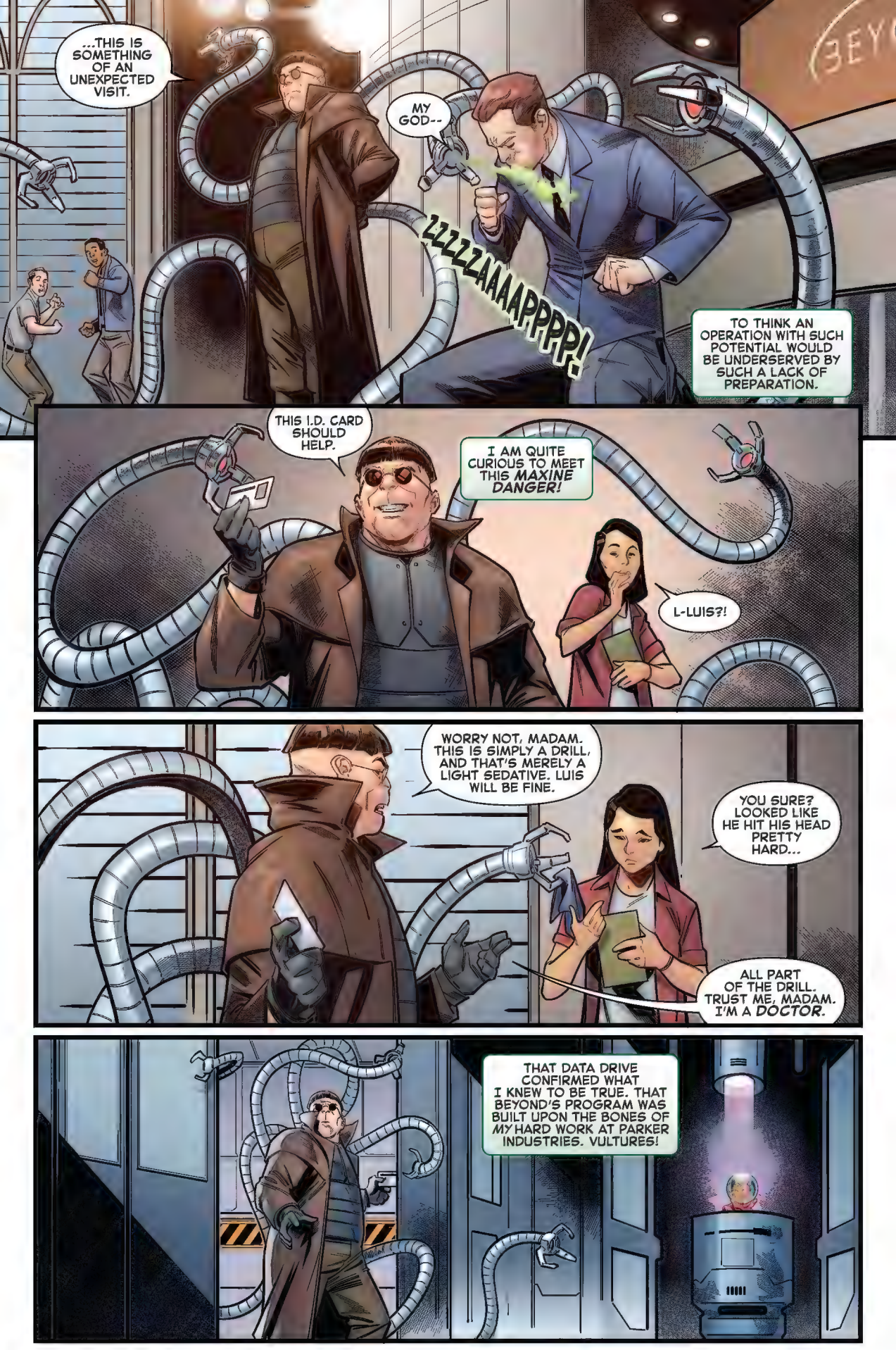

DOC OCK!
YOU'RE STARTING TO MAKE A HABIT OF WAKING UP IN A MEDBAY, BEN.
WHAT CAN I SAY, I LOVE THE SERVICE.
HOW BAD'RE THINGS LOOKING?
I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WAS IN THAT BLACK BOX BESIDES THAT IT CONTAINS INFORMATION BEYOND DEEMS SUPREMELY SENSITIVE AND THAT IT IS NOW IN OTTO'S HANDS.
BUT YOU'VE ONLY BEEN OUT FOR THIRTY OR SO MINUTES, SO HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR.
I SCREWED UP BIG-TIME, MARCUS. I LET EVERYBODY DOWN.
YOU WENT IN WITH LITTLE INTEL AND STILL PUT UP ONE HELL OF A FIGHT. EVEN IF WAKING UP IN A MEDBAY MIGHT SAY OTHERWISE...
I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE YOU ROASTING ME, MARCUS.
THAT'S INTERESTING...
...BECAUSE I ALSO HAVE A STRONG DISLIKE FOR PROBLEMS. SO IMAGINE MY DISMAY AT ONE SO COLOSSAL IT REQUIRES MY PERSONAL ATTENTION.
YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS PROJECT BECAUSE WE THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THE OTHER CHOICES. I'M DISAPPOINTED TO FIND YOU UNABLE TO BEST A FOE THE LEGACY SPIDER-MAN MADE A ROUTINE OF BEATING.
OKAY, OUCH.
NICE OF YOU TO CHECK IN, MAXINE.


IT'S HARD TO OVERSTATE JUST HOW BADLY I NEED THAT DRIVE BACK IN OUR HANDS. AS OF NOW, THIS IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. I NEED OTTO FOUND. FAST.
YES, MA'AM. WE'RE WORK--
FUNNY THAT YOU WOULD START TALKING WHEN I HAVEN'T STOPPED.
WE'LL FIND OCK, MAXINE. BUT I DON'T LOVE HOW CLOAK-AND-DAGGER YOU'RE BEING ABOUT WHAT'S ON THAT DRIVE.
YOU KNOW EXACTLY THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW TO OPERATE AT 100% CAPACITY AS A BEYOND ASSET.
I'M NOT AN ASSET--
YES, YOU ARE. ONE THAT'S QUICKLY BECOMING A LIABILITY.
AND I NEED THE BOTH OF YOU TO KNOW THAT I DO NOT SUFFER LIABILITIES.
WHAT'S ON THE DRIVE, MAXINE?
INFORMATION.
WHAT KIND?
THE CONFIDENTIAL KIND THAT ANY NUMBER OF OUR COMPETITORS COULD USE TO MAKE LIFE A LIVING HELL FOR BEYOND AND EVERY PERSON WE EMPLOY IN PERPETUITY.
SO GET IT BACK.
COPY THAT.
YES, MA'AM.
HOPE YOU HAVE SOME IDEAS WHERE TO START LOOKING, MARCUS...

"...'CAUSE THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THE HELL OTTO IS."
WELCOME BACK, MRS. LIND. HAVE A GOOD LUNCH?
THE BEST! HAVE A GOOD ONE, LUIS!
BEYOND HQ.
Across Town.
OH, HI THERE. MAY I HELP YOU?
YES, I'M HERE TO SEE MAXINE DANGER.
I'M SORRY, SIR. I DON'T SEE ANY SCHEDULED VISITS FOR MS. DANGER TODAY.
THAT'S NO PROBLEM, MY DEAR BOY...

...THIS VISIT IS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE!
CODY-PM CODE
CLICK TO ALERT
press-lobby




...THIS IS SOMETHING OF AN UNEXPECTED VISIT.
MY GOD--
ZZZZZAAAAPPPP!
TO THINK AN OPERATION WITH SUCH POTENTIAL WOULD BE UNDERSERVED BY SUCH A LACK OF PREPARATION.
THIS I.D. CARD SHOULD HELP.
I AM QUITE CURIOUS TO MEET THIS MAXINE DANGER!
L-LUIS?!
WORRY NOT, MADAM. THIS IS SIMPLY A DRILL, AND THAT'S MERELY A LIGHT SEDATIVE. LUIS WILL BE FINE.
YOU SURE? LOOKED LIKE HE HIT HIS HEAD PRETTY HARD...
ALL PART OF THE DRILL. TRUST ME, MADAM. I'M A DOCTOR.
THAT DATA DRIVE CONFIRMED WHAT I KNEW TO BE TRUE. THAT BEYOND'S PROGRAM WAS BUILT UPON THE BONES OF MY HARD WORK AT PARKER INDUSTRIES. VULTURES!

I WILL PUT THESE PEOPLE IN THEIR PLACE AND ASSUME RIGHTFUL CONTROL OF MY STOLEN IDEAS. NOTHING WILL DISTRACT ME FROM THIS SINGULAR VISION--
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE IS THIS?!
THE KIND THAT DON'T LIKE BEING OGLED, DRY-BOY! KEEP IT MOVIN'!
MY WORD.
A SCIENTIFIC STUNT, MOST LIKELY. THE LENGTHS THESE PEOPLE GO TO MOCK MY GENIUS KNOWS NO BOUNDS!
YOU DON'T GOTS THE STOMACH FOR WHAT'S IN THERE, PAL.
THIS CANNOT BE...
THEY DARE?
SANDWICH DEPARTMENT #1
WHAT ON EARTH?!

RELEASE US, O' BUNLESS ONE, AND WE SHALL GRANT YOU WISHES THREE!
EGAD!
SANDWICH DEPARTMENT
AND WHAT WAS BEYOND THAT FIRST ROOM, I MAY NEVER FORGET! I MUST KEEP STRONG IN MY RESOLVE AS THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT OTHER HORRORS THIS PLACE WILL HOLD!
MANY FLOORS LATER.
NOTHING BUT GLORIFIED HANGOVER PILLS. ANOTHER WASTE.
WHOA THERE, DOC! HOPE YOU GOT A PRESCRIPTION FOR THOSE.
GOTTA WARN YOU THOUGH-- SIDE EFFECTS MIGHT INCLUDE US KICKING YOUR BUTT.
MISTY, YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT PUN.
WE JUST FINISHED TRAINING AND I'M TIRED, COLLEEN. CAN YOU LET ME LIVE?
YOU SEEM TO BE MISTAKEN, MS. KNIGHT...
...I AM THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE ASKING THAT!

YOU'RE PUSHING THE GLIDE-BOOSTER TOO HARD, BEN! IT'S LIABLE TO BLOW UP AT THIS PACE.
PUT IT ON MY COMPANY CARD, MARCUS. TIME'S NOT ON OUR SIDE, IN CASE YOU FORGOT.
DOC OCK IS RANSACKING BEYOND HQ, AND I NEED TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE HURTS ANYONE ELSE.
YOU CAN'T STOP HIM IF YOU'RE A SMOLDERING CRATER ON FIFTH STREET.
THEN YOU'RE REALLY GONNA HATE THE PART WHERE I TELL YOU I ADDED AFTER-BURNERS.
YOU WHAT?!
VA-VOOOOM!
KEY ALL SECURITY SHUTTERS TO AUTO-OPEN ON MY BIOSIGNATURE. I'M COMING IN HOT AND DON'T HAVE TIME TO KNOCK!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE THIS EASY AND JUST CALL IT A DAY, WOULD YOU, DOC?
YEAH, YOU'RE MAKING ME SHOOT SOME OF MY FAVORITE BULLETS. THESE THINGS DON'T GROW ON TREES!
HEY!
MISTY! LET HER GO, OTTO!
UGGGH!
OOOF!
WHAM!
YOU'RE HEAVIER THAN YOU LOOK.
NOT NOW, COLLEEN!
SIT TIGHT, LADIES. I WILL RETURN ONCE MY BUSINESS IS DONE.
I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW CREEPY "SIT TIGHT, LADIES" SOUNDS!
UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE JUST LOST TO #$%& DR. OCTOPUS!

LOCK THAT ENTRANCE DOWN NOW!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE SAFE ROOM, MA'AM?
I REFUSE TO WASTE A PERFECTLY GOOD SAFE ROOM ON A TEMPER TANTRUM FROM OTTO OCTAVIUS.
CONTACT!
I SAID LOCK THAT #$%& DOOR DOWN!
HE'S BREACHING! GET THAT DOOR SEALED!
BRATTA! BRATTA!
AGGGGH!
LOOK OUT-- GGNNNH!
WH-WHAM!
MAN DOWN!
WE NEED BACKUP! REPEAT, WE NEED--
BLAT BLAT BLAT
KRASH
MAXINE DANGER!
SCREEEEE
I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH YOU!

OTTO.
YOU HAVE QUITE THE RESOLVE, BUT I'VE SEEN THE CONTENTS OF THAT DRIVE.
THE LIES. THE MANIPULATIONS. EVERYTHING YOUR SPIDER-PROGRAM WAS BUILT UPON. ONCE I TAKE OVER, I'LL SEE THAT IT'S USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.
REVENGE FOR IMAGINED SLIGHTS IS PETTY MOTIVATION, EVEN BY YOUR VERY LOW STANDARDS, OTTO.
CURIOUS WAY TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE.
BEGGING IS VERY MUCH BENEATH ME, OTTO. HOWEVER, ADMITTING I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST CLUE AS TO WHY YOU'RE HERE IS NOT.
MAYBE THE GUILT OF STEALING MY PROPERTY COMPELLED YOU TO RETURN IT? HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.
GRRRGH...
IF ANGERING ME FURTHER IS HOW YOU CHOOSE TO SPEND YOUR LAST MOMENTS, I BELIEVE I'VE INDULGED YOU LONG ENOUGH! CONSIDER THIS YOUR RESIGNATION--
CRASH!
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T SEE THE SIGN, OTTO...

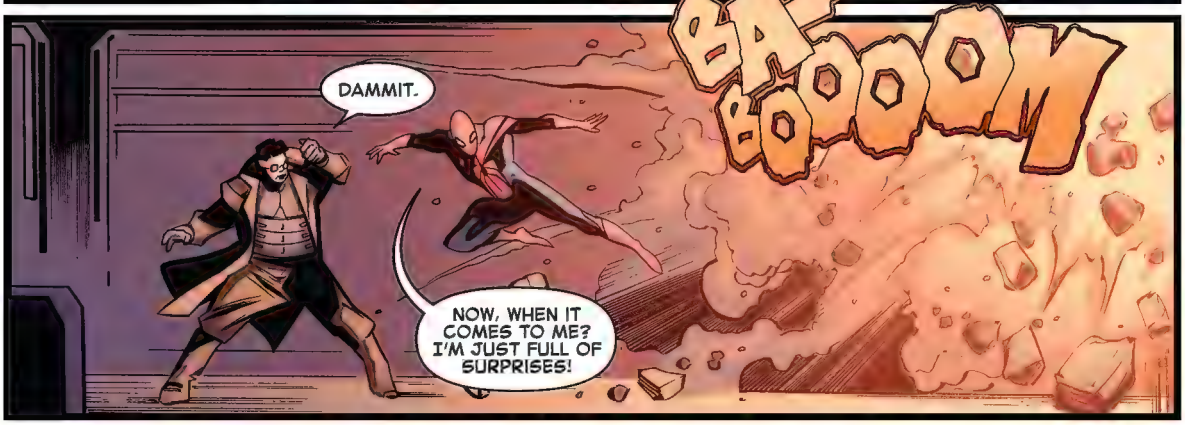
...THE SUGGESTIONS BOX IS IN THE BREAK ROOM!
WHAM!
THUD!
CRASH!
DAMN YOU, BOY-- GAAAH!
TRY NOT TO DESTROY ANY MORE OF MY WALLS, SPIDER-MAN.
I JUST GAVE YOU AN OPEN FLOOR PLAN. YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME!

IF YOU'RE THAT HARD UP FOR WORK, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION, BUDDY!
YOU CANNOT AVOID MY GRASP FOREVER!
WHAT IN THE--?
HEY, DOC, JUST DEALING WITH A LITTLE OCTOPUS PROBLEM.
BE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS QUICK, WE STILL HAVE A SESSION LATER.
SURE THING--
OOOF!
SLAM
ENOUGH OF THESE DISTRACTIONS, BOY!
CARDS ON THE TABLE--I DO HAVE ONE MORE TRICK UP MY SLEEVE--
AACK!
AND IT'S A REAL DOOZY.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
I AM SO GLAD YOU ASKED...
SNAP!

WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!
JUST FIGURED I'D SHOW YOU THE REAL COOL STUFF THE TEAM BUILT TO PREP FOR YOU. IT WAS TOO BIG FOR FIELD-USE EARLIER.
VOOOM!
SHOOSH!
LIKE THIS *MAGNET GUN!* IT FIRES A MAGNETIC CHARGE INTENSE ENOUGH TO PUT MAGNETO TO SHAME.
BUT DON'T TELL HIM I SAID THAT.
YOU *INSOLENT* LITTLE--
BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!
I ALSO HAVE SPINNERETS! AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE, LIKE, REALLY COOL.
RELEASE ME!
NOW HERE COMES THE GOOD PART.
KRACK

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU HAS CHANGED.
I'M DONE PLAYING GAMES, DOC. I JUST WANT TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT I'VE EARNED THIS. EARNED *EVERYTHING.*
IS THAT SO...?
NOW THAT I'VE *STYLISHLY* KICKED YOUR BUTT, YOU READY TO GIVE UP?
NONSENSE!
YOU FOOLISH BOY...
...I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!
CLICK
NAH...

...THAT TRICK ONLY WORKS ONCE.
YA-YANK


DAMMIT.
NOW, WHEN IT COMES TO ME? I'M JUST FULL OF SURPRISES!
BA-BOOOOM

SAY IT WITH ME NOW!
YEE!
TIMP
WHAT ARE YOU DO--

AND!

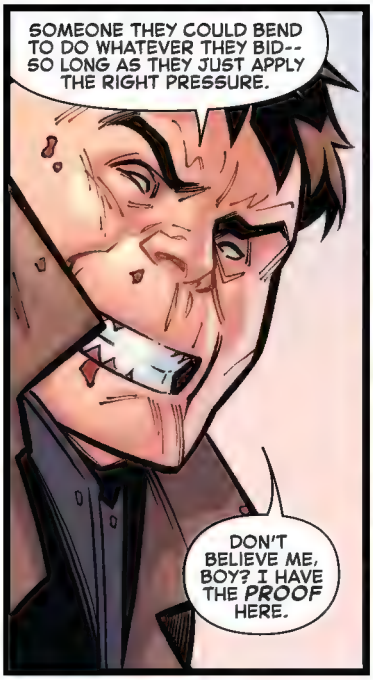
HAWW!
YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!

ACK!
THUD!
I BET THAT LOOKED SO COOL.
THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, RIGHT, OTTO? TO TAKE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS AND SEE WHICH OF US IS THE BEST?
THE NAIVETE. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU'RE IN A BOX! THAT YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN VEAL!
A CALF FATTENED UP BY MAXINE AND HER PEOPLE--TO THINK YOU OFFER ANY WORTH BEYOND BEING A HIGHLY SUGGESTIBLE WHELP. I ALMOST PITY YOU--
SHUT UP!
UGGGGGH!
NO MORE LIES, OTTO!
NO MORE HEAD GAMES!
THUNK!

I'M GOING TO PROVE TO YOU--TO EVERYONE, ONCE AND FOR ALL--THAT I'M HERE FOR A REASON.
THAT I BELONG!
THAT I GET RESULTS!
THAT I CANNOT BE MANIPULATED!

A FOOL.
WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID YOU'RE A DAMNED FOOL, BOY! BEYOND DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU FOR YOUR "STRONG WILL" BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE *PSYCHOLOGICALLY COMPROMISED!* BECAUSE YOU ARE *WEAK!*

AN EASILY CONTROLLED LAPDOG PRONE TO EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS AND DISTRACTIONS WHOSE LEASH ENDS IN BEYOND'S HANDS.


SOMEONE THEY COULD BEND TO DO WHATEVER THEY BID-- SO LONG AS THEY JUST APPLY THE RIGHT PRESSURE.
DON'T BELIEVE ME, BOY? I HAVE THE *PROOF* HERE.

A DATA DRIVE OF ALL OF MAXINE AND BEYOND'S TERRIBLE LITTLE SECRETS. I BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE.
I'VE DISABLED THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS. NO ONE WILL KNOW IT'S BEEN OPENED. ITS CONTENTS WILL BE KNOWN TO YOU AND YOU ALONE.

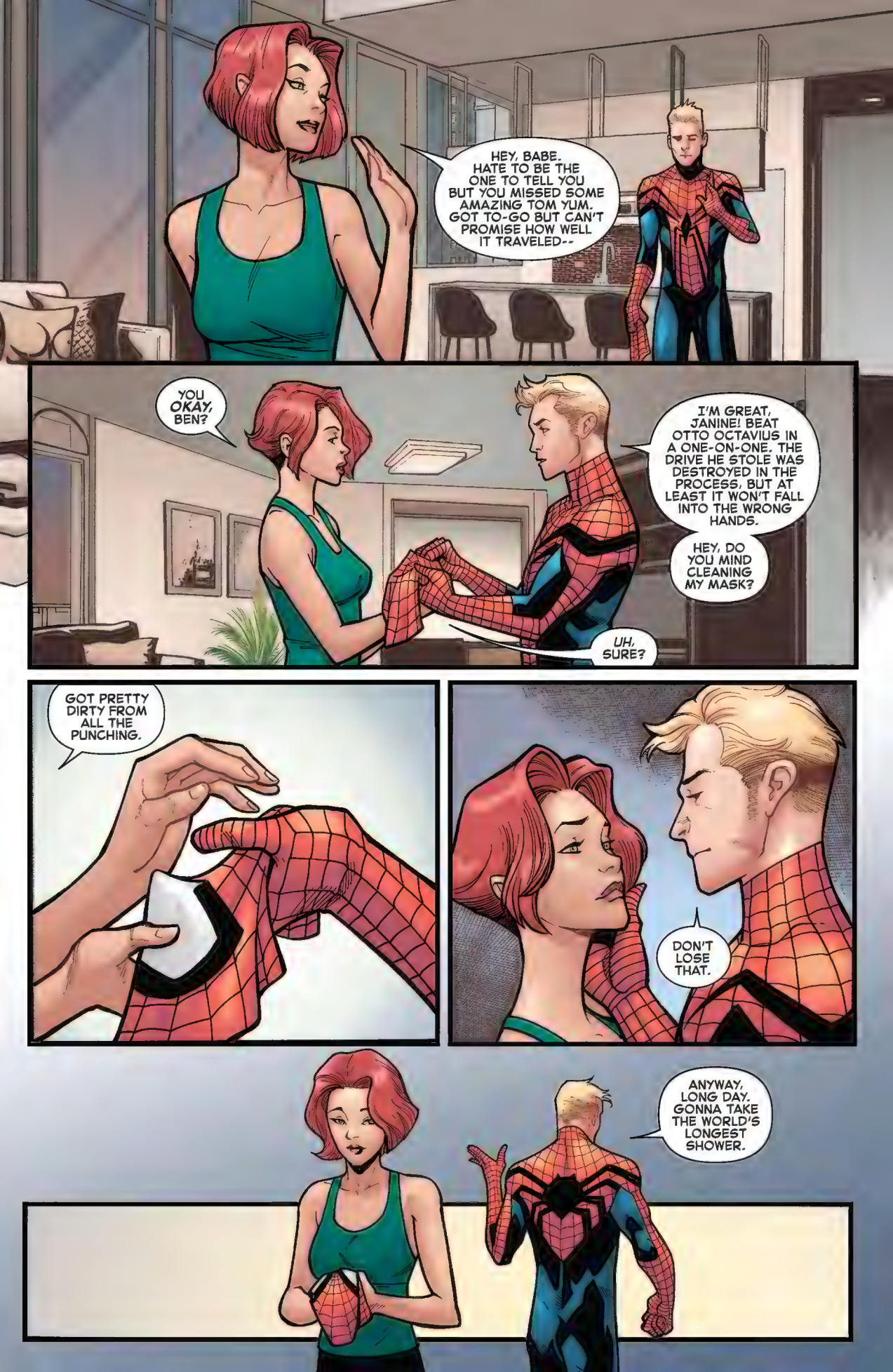
I'M NOT SEEING THE ENDGAME FOR THIS CON, OTTO...
THIS IS NO *RUSE*, BOY.

I'M A MONSTER WHO HAS HURT MANY, AND I KNOW MY OWN. THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR MACHINATIONS RUN DEEP, AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO BE AWARE.
YOU'RE LYING! I'VE DONE GOOD. I'VE DONE *SO* MUCH GOOD. I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU TAKE THIS FROM ME! TO TURN ME AGAINST THEM.

I--I DON'T BELIEVE YOU...
I'M MANY THINGS, BUT A LIAR IS NOT ONE OF THEM. INSIDE, YOU'LL FIND THE DETAILS OF YOUR PSYCH PROFILE COMPILED BY BEYOND PSYCHOLOGISTS. YOU CAN SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.
OF COURSE, YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO READ THEM.
...
IF YOU FIND THAT I HAVE MISLED YOU, I'M SURE YOU COULD USE YOUR MASTER'S AMPLE RESOURCES TO FIND ME. EVENTUALLY.
GOODBYE, SPIDER-MAN. ENJOY YOUR WIN.
"SO THAT'S HOW YOU LOST EVERYTHING?"

AT LEAST EVERYTHING THAT IS IMPORTANT TO *ME?*
YES.
SO, AFTER INTERCEPTING OTTO, YOUR FIGHT LED YOU TO AN ADJOURNING BUILDING, AND IN THE ENSUING STRUGGLE, NOT ONLY DID OTTO ESCAPE, BUT THE DATA DRIVE WAS ALSO DESTROYED?
DOC'S BELT WAS ARMED. HE SET IT TO SELF-DESTRUCT ALONG WITH THE DRIVE THE MOMENT HE SAW THE FIGHT GOING SOUTH. HE SLIPPED AWAY DURING THE CHAOS.
UNFORTUNATE.
THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S BETTER DESTROYED THAN IN THE HANDS OF A LUNATIC. ADEQUATE JOB, BEN.
WHY DID BEYOND CHOOSE ME?
PARDON?
I WANT TO KNOW WHY *YOU* CHOSE ME.

BECAUSE OF YOUR DETERMINATION AND STRONG WILL.
RIGHT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HONESTY, MAXINE. I SHOULD GET BACK--I OWE JANINE SOME THAI.
OF COURSE, BEN. I'M NOTHING IF NOT A STRAIGHT SHOOTER.
RIGHT.


HEY, BABE. HATE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU BUT YOU MISSED SOME AMAZING TOM YUM. GOT TO-GO BUT CAN'T PROMISE HOW WELL IT TRAVELED--
YOU OKAY, BEN?
I'M GREAT, JANINE! BEAT OTTO OCTAVIUS IN A ONE-ON-ONE. THE DRIVE HE STOLE WAS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS, BUT AT LEAST IT WON'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
HEY, DO YOU MIND CLEANING MY MASK?
UH, SURE?
GOT PRETTY DIRTY FROM ALL THE PUNCHING.
DON'T LOSE THAT.
ANYWAY, LONG DAY. GONNA TAKE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SHOWER.

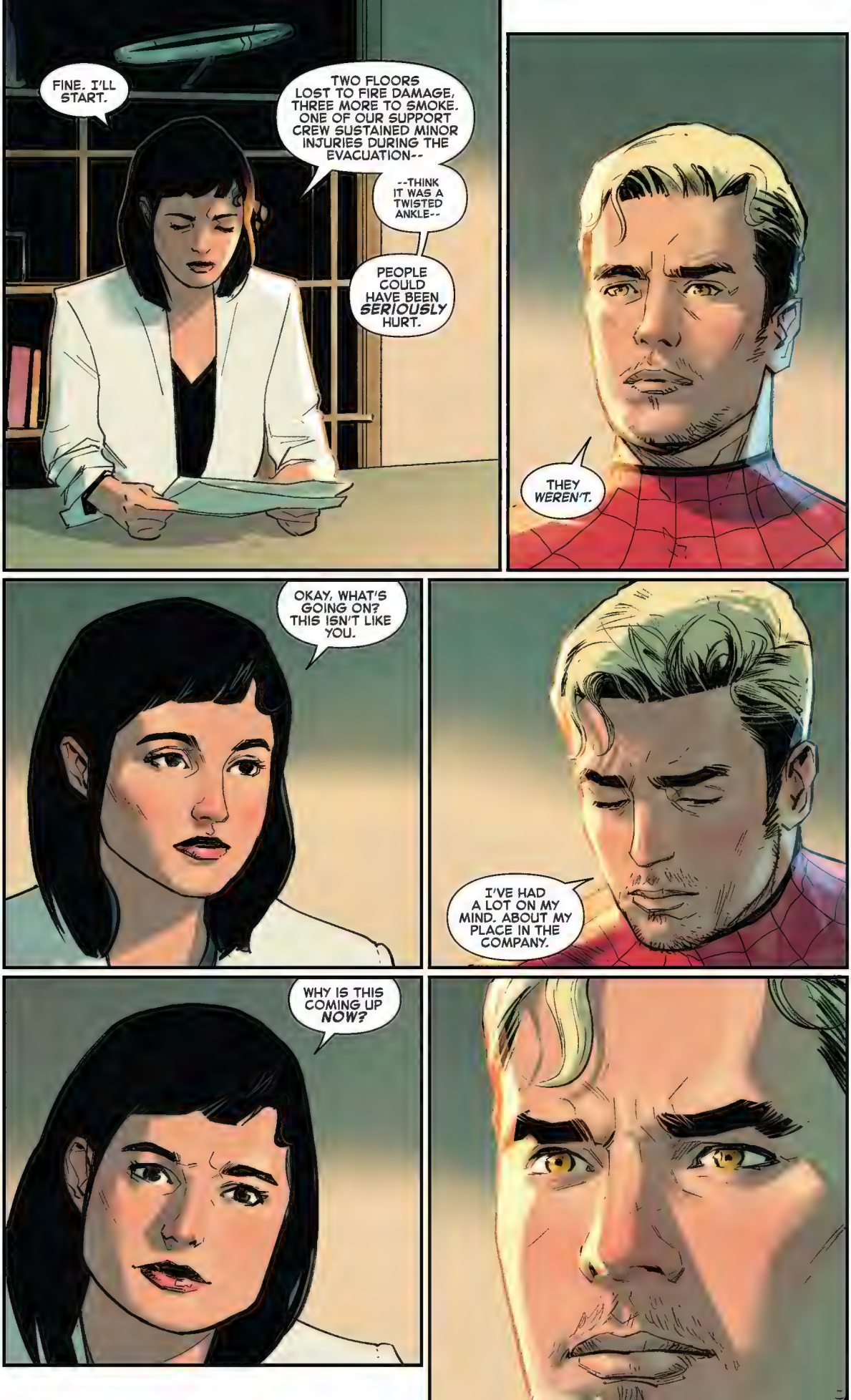
A HOT SHOWER.
A GOOD SHAVE.
CRASH
AND I'LL BE A BRAND-NEW MAN.

#86 VARIANT BY
MIGUEL MERCADO

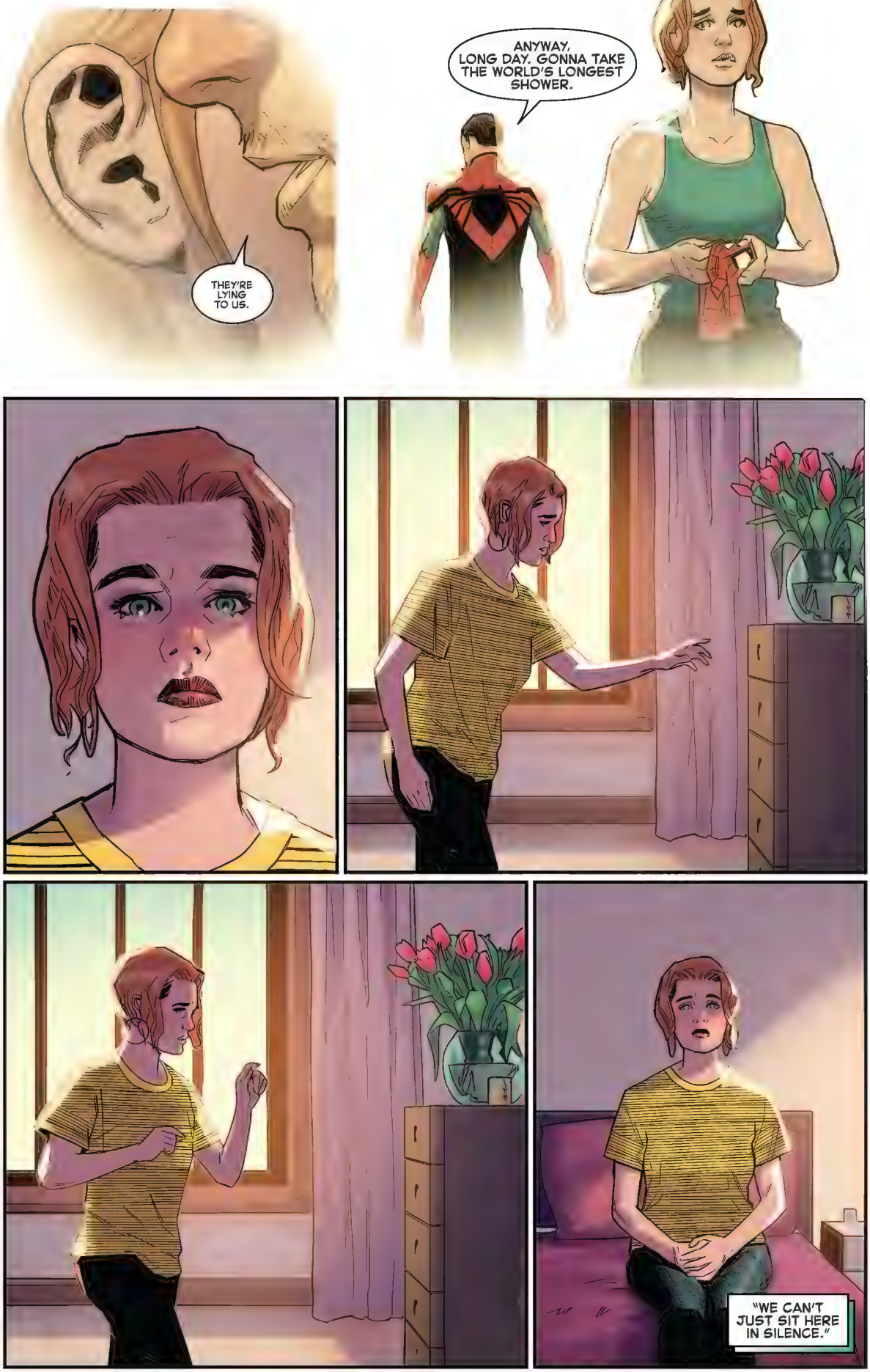
SO...
SO?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
BEN?

EARLIER.
HANG TIGHT, BEN. HELLBOMB IS JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS. BEYOND LOGISTICS WON'T GIVE US THE GO-AHEAD UNTIL THERE'S A FIRE CONTAINMENT TEAM IN PLACE.
1ST AVE. AND ST. MARK'S PL.
BEYOND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HA. NOT ALWAYS. BUT THIS IS A PERP COVERED IN HIGHLY FLAMMABLE--
CRASH!
GAAAH!

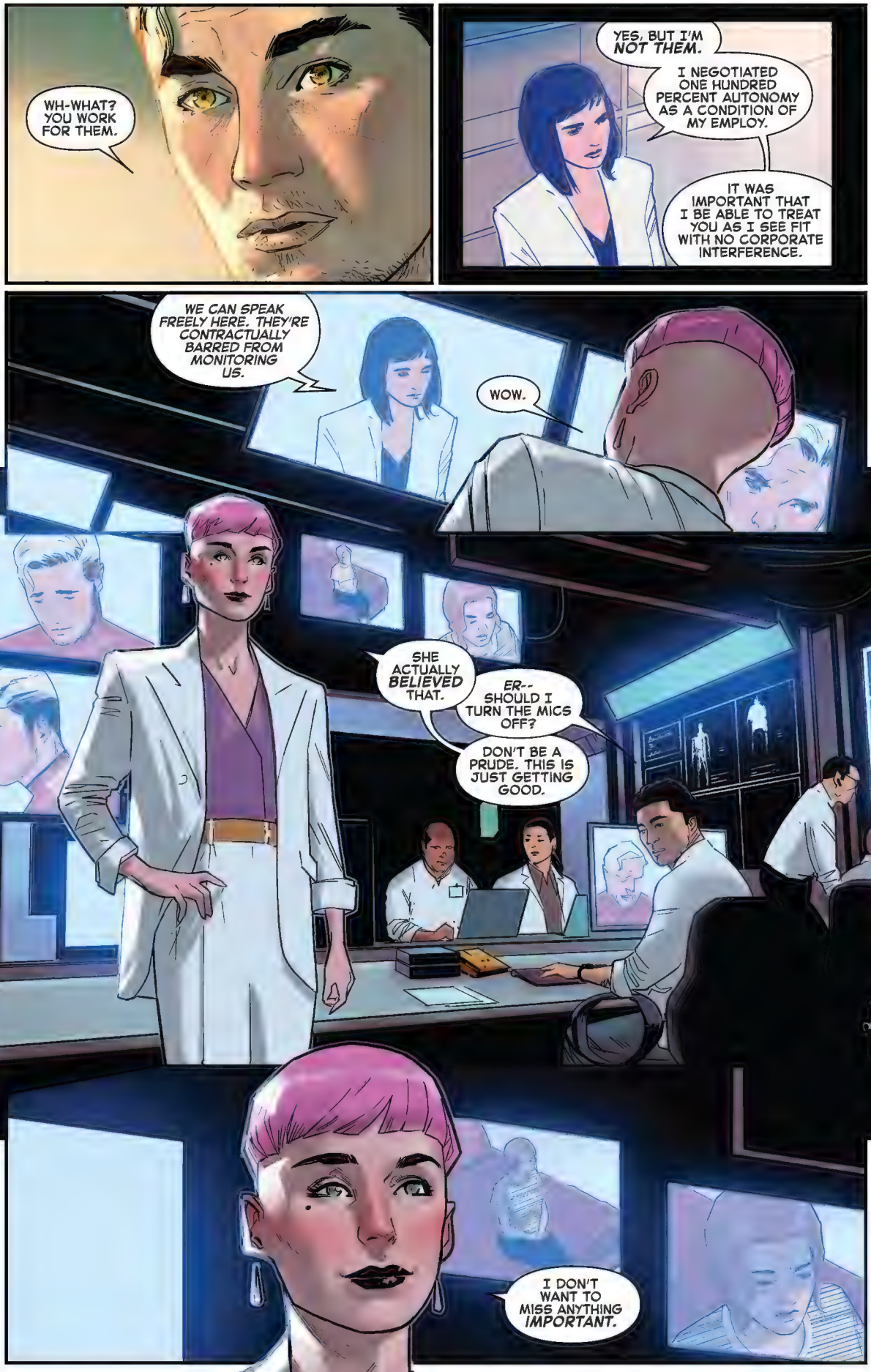
DID-- DID HE GO IN?!
UH...
--GURK!
FWOOOSH
HE WENT IN!
BEN, THIS IS A 150-YEAR-OLD BUILDING! IF THAT FIRE SPREADS, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
BEN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
BEN?!


FINE. I'LL START.
TWO FLOORS LOST TO FIRE DAMAGE, THREE MORE TO SMOKE. ONE OF OUR SUPPORT CREW SUSTAINED MINOR INJURIES DURING THE EVACUATION--
--THINK IT WAS A TWISTED ANKLE--
PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT.
THEY WEREN'T.
OKAY, WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
I'VE HAD A LOT ON MY MIND. ABOUT MY PLACE IN THE COMPANY.
WHY IS THIS COMING UP NOW?

TWO FLOORS UP.
YOU OKAY, BEN?
I'M GREAT, JANINE! BEAT OTTO OCTAVIUS IN A ONE-ON-ONE. THE DRIVE HE STOLE WAS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS, BUT AT LEAST IT WON'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
HEY, DO YOU MIND CLEANING MY MASK?
UH, SURE?
IT GOT REAL DIRTY.
DON'T LOSE THAT.


THEY'RE LYING TO US.
ANYWAY, LONG DAY. GONNA TAKE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SHOWER.
"WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE IN SILENCE."

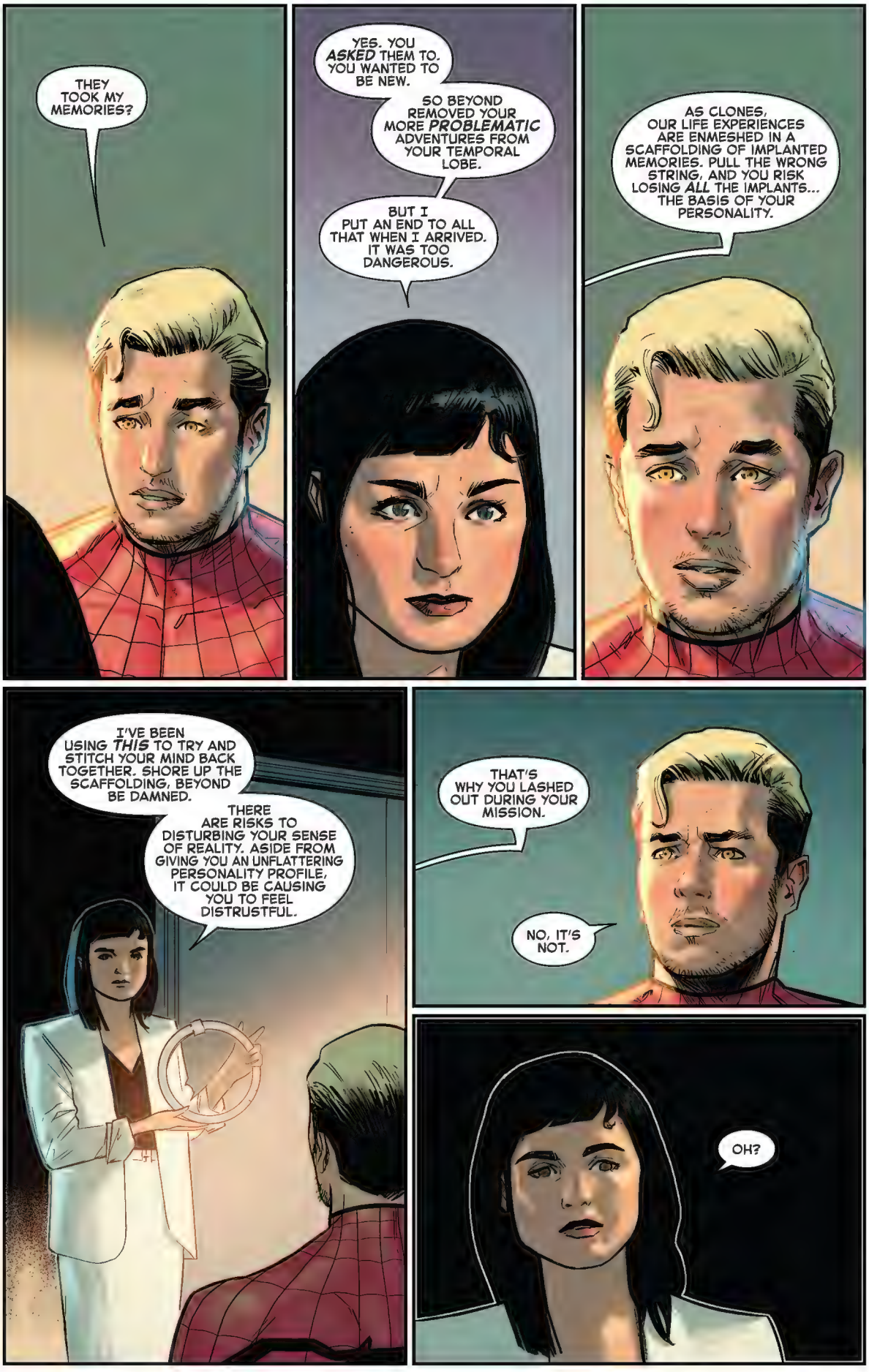
YOU'VE GOT TO TALK TO ME.
NO.
WHY?
BECAUSE YOU WORK FOR *THEM.*
AND I DON'T TRUST BEYOND. NOT ANYMORE.
CAN I TELL YOU A SECRET?
I DON'T TRUST THEM EITHER.


WH-WHAT? YOU WORK FOR THEM.
YES, BUT I'M NOT THEM.
I NEGOTIATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AUTONOMY AS A CONDITION OF MY EMPLOY.
IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT I BE ABLE TO TREAT YOU AS I SEE FIT WITH NO CORPORATE INTERFERENCE.
WE CAN SPEAK FREELY HERE. THEY'RE CONTRACTUALLY BARRED FROM MONITORING US.
WOW.
SHE ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT.
ER-- SHOULD I TURN THE MICS OFF?
DON'T BE A PRUDE. THIS IS JUST GETTING GOOD.
I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANYTHING IMPORTANT.

"IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION YOU'D LIKE PRIVILEGES TO LEAVE THE APARTMENT UNSUPERVISED."
I'M SHOCKED I HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU WERE EXTRICATED FROM A *CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.*
IT WOULDN'T BE SAFE FOR EITHER OF US IF YOU WERE ALLOWED TO PRANCE DOWN OUR HALLS UNCHAPERONED. I KNOW THIS IS DISAPPOINTING...
"...BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST THAT *BEYOND KNOWS BEST.*"

...AND OTTO HAD COMPLETELY BROKEN THE ENCRYPTION. MY BEYOND DOSSIER WAS RIGHT THERE. EVERYTHING THEY THINK OF ME...
"A MORE MALLEABLE MORALITY...PERSONALITY LESS DEFINED. A HUNGER FOR MEANING THAT MAKES HIM EASILY MANIPULATED."
YOU MUST HAVE FELT VERY MISUNDERSTOOD.
NO.
I FELT LIKE THEY UNDERSTOOD ME EXACTLY.
I'VE ALWAYS FELT... ALWAYS KNOWN THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME. GOES WITH THE TERRITORY WHEN...
WHEN...
WHEN YOU'RE A CLONE.

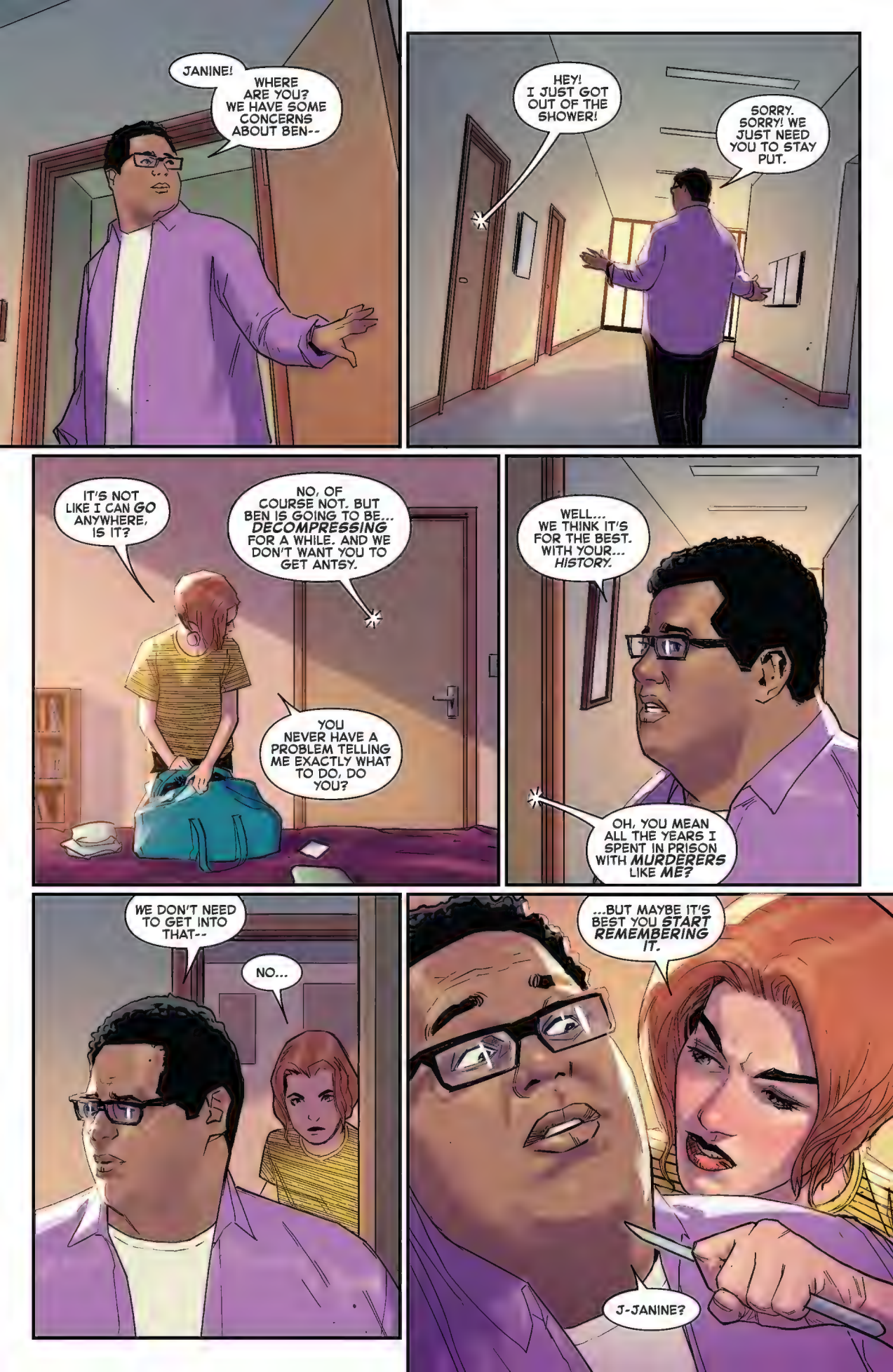
WH-WHAT? I'M N-NOT--
I'M NOT A CLONE.
BEN.
I--I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE--
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU TOLD THEM.
ABOUT HOW YOU WERE RESURRECTED AND KILLED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THE JACKAL, BEFORE TAKING ON HIS MANTLE.
BEFORE BRINGING OTHERS BACK...
OTHERS LIKE ME.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT.
NO. YOU WOULDN'T. BEYOND WANTED THEIR SPIDER-MAN TO BE SQUEAKY-CLEAN. THE MEMORIES OF THE JACKAL'S ABUSE MADE YOU MORE COMPLICATED.
BACK IN ASM: CLONE CONSPIRACY! --NL
SO THEY TOOK THEM AWAY.
WIPED YOUR MIND CLEAN.


THEY TOOK MY MEMORIES?
YES. YOU ASKED THEM TO. YOU WANTED TO BE NEW.
SO BEYOND REMOVED YOUR MORE PROBLEMATIC ADVENTURES FROM YOUR TEMPORAL LOBE.
BUT I PUT AN END TO ALL THAT WHEN I ARRIVED. IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS.
AS CLONES, OUR LIFE EXPERIENCES ARE ENMESHED IN A SCAFFOLDING OF IMPLANTED MEMORIES. PULL THE WRONG STRING, AND YOU RISK LOSING ALL THE IMPLANTS... THE BASIS OF YOUR PERSONALITY.
I'VE BEEN USING THIS TO TRY AND STITCH YOUR MIND BACK TOGETHER. SHORE UP THE SCAFFOLDING, BEYOND BE DAMNED.
THERE ARE RISKS TO DISTURBING YOUR SENSE OF REALITY. ASIDE FROM GIVING YOU AN UNFLATTERING PERSONALITY PROFILE, IT COULD BE CAUSING YOU TO FEEL DISTRUSTFUL.
THAT'S WHY YOU LASHED OUT DURING YOUR MISSION.
NO, IT'S NOT.
OH?

"THE DRIVE OTTO STOLE...
"...THERE WAS *OTHER* STUFF ON IT.
"DOCUMENTS FROM *HUNDREDS* OF SHELL COMPANIES. BEYOND IS ALMOST *CHAOTICALLY* DIVERSIFIED.
"AND THAT CHAOS IS A *COVER.*
"THE *SUPER HERO* GAME ISN'T THE *ONLY* ONE THEY'RE PLAYING.
"WE'RE ALL IN DANGER.
"WE'VE GOT TO *PROTECT* OURSELVES."

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THE U-FOES WEREN'T--
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT, THEN.
TEK
EEEE

PATIENT EXTRACTION IS NOW IN PROGRESS. PLEASE REMAIN CALM.
NO! YOU PROMISED!
IF YOU CANNOT REMAIN CALM, CALM WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU.
FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT
ANESTHESIA ADMINISTERED. HAVE A GREAT SLEEP.
READY HIM FOR MEMO-SURGERY.
MAXINE!
YOU LIED TO ME!
P-PLEASE! DON'T DO THIS!
DON'T DO THIS TO HIM AGAIN!

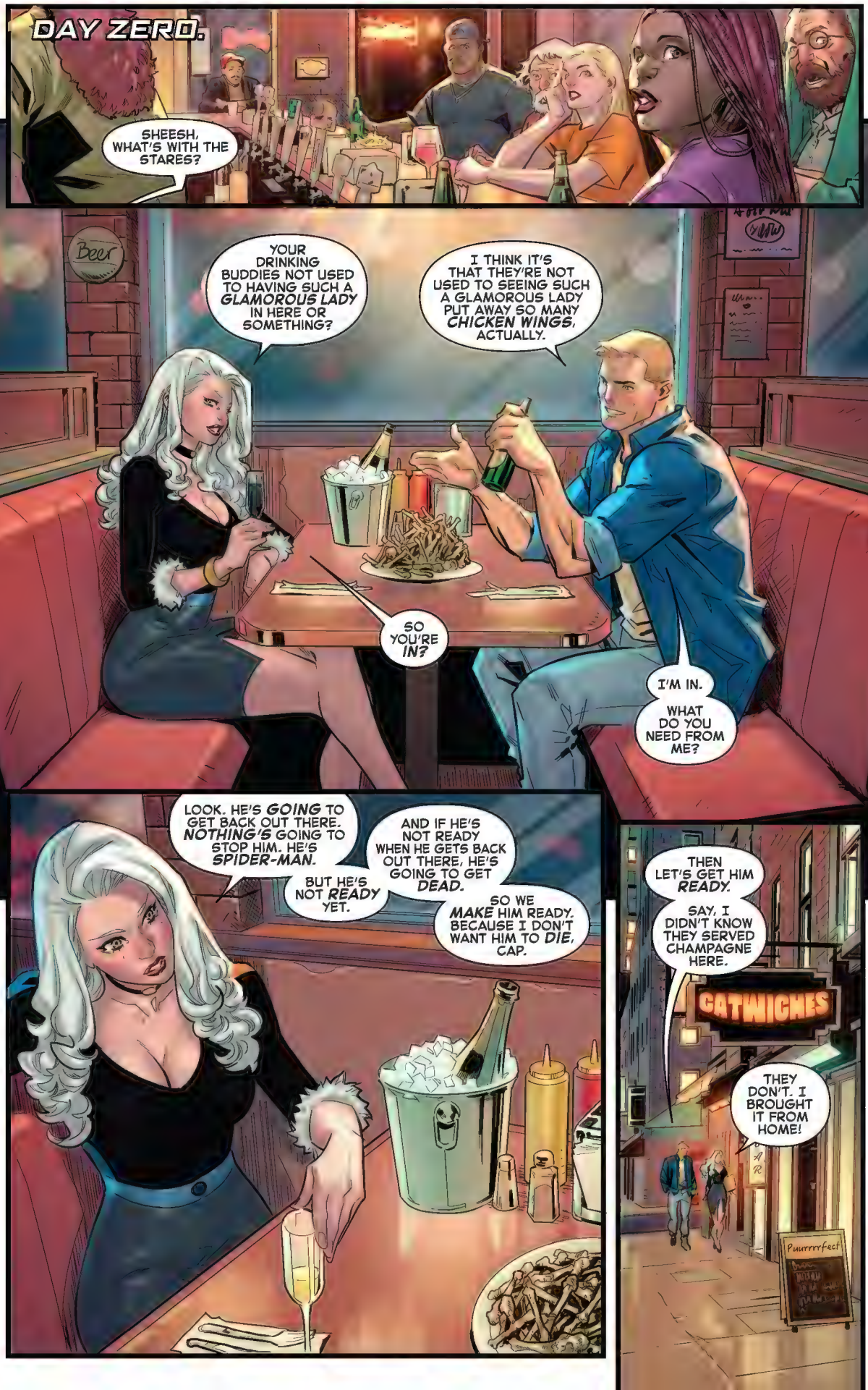

JANINE!
WHERE ARE YOU? WE HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT BEN--
HEY! I JUST GOT OUT OF THE SHOWER!
SORRY. SORRY! WE JUST NEED YOU TO STAY PUT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN GO ANYWHERE, IS IT?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. BUT BEN IS GOING TO BE... DECOMPRESSING FOR A WHILE. AND WE DON'T WANT YOU TO GET ANTSY.
YOU NEVER HAVE A PROBLEM TELLING ME EXACTLY WHAT TO DO, DO YOU?
WELL... WE THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST. WITH YOUR... HISTORY.
OH, YOU MEAN ALL THE YEARS I SPENT IN PRISON WITH MURDERERS LIKE ME?
WE DON'T NEED TO GET INTO THAT--
NO...
...BUT MAYBE IT'S BEST YOU START REMEMBERING IT.
J-JANINE?

WE'RE IN.
START BY SCRUBBING OCTAVIUS'S LITTLE PEP TALK, AND MOVE FORWARD FROM THERE.
PULLING THE THREAD NOW.
BEYOND DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR "STRONG WILL," BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE PSYCHOLOGICALLY COMPROMISED!
"WE GOT IT.
"SCRUB FORWARD."
MS. DANGER, IT'S MARCUS. HE'S ASKING FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE TO LEAVE WITH A GUEST.
WHAT? WHY?
HE COULDN'T GIVE DETAILS AND WAS *ADAMANT* IF THAT WAS A PROBLEM, HE DOESN'T MIND BEING DETAINED.
WHATEVER. IT'S FINE.

WAIT, WHY ARE WE BACK THERE? ARE YOU--
NO! THAT'S A SPONTANEOUS JUMP.
HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE JACKAL?
HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE JACKAL?
THERE'S AN INSTABILITY IN THE FORMATIVE MEMORIES!
DAMMIT, WHAT IS THIS?!
"THE MEMORIES ARE DESTABILIZING!"
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
H-HOLD IT RIGHT TH-TH-TH
STOP PULLING!
I'M NOT! THIS ISN'T A DEMOLITION!

"IT'S A COLLAPSE."

YOU WANT TO WEAR THIS AGAIN?
PROVE IT!
ARTHUR ADAMS 9-24 2021

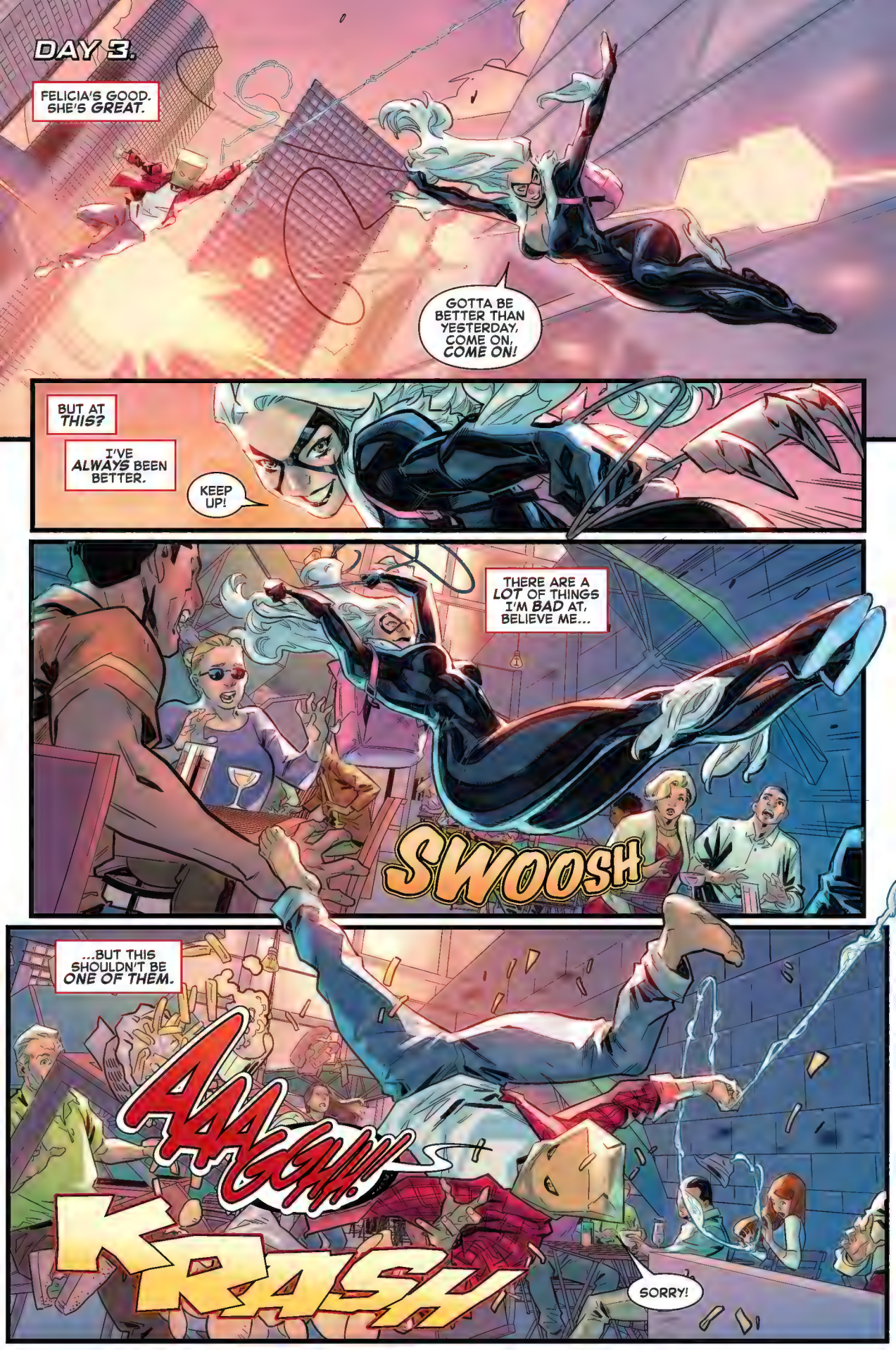

DAY ZERO.
SHEESH, WHAT'S WITH THE STARES?
Beer
YOUR DRINKING BUDDIES NOT USED TO HAVING SUCH A GLAMOROUS LADY IN HERE OR SOMETHING?
I THINK IT'S THAT THEY'RE NOT USED TO SEEING SUCH A GLAMOROUS LADY PUT AWAY SO MANY CHICKEN WINGS, ACTUALLY.
SO YOU'RE IN?
I'M IN.
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?
LOOK. HE'S GOING TO GET BACK OUT THERE. NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP HIM. HE'S SPIDER-MAN.
BUT HE'S NOT READY YET.
AND IF HE'S NOT READY WHEN HE GETS BACK OUT THERE, HE'S GOING TO GET DEAD.
SO WE MAKE HIM READY. BECAUSE I DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE, CAP.
THEN LET'S GET HIM READY.
SAY, I DIDN'T KNOW THEY SERVED CHAMPAGNE HERE.
CATWICHES
THEY DON'T. I BROUGHT IT FROM HOME!
Puurrrrfect

DAY 1.
CLASS IS IN SESSION.
SO LISTEN UP, BABY.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT SCHOOL.
ESU

BUT THIS IS AN ENTIRELY NEW FACULTY.
SO.
I KNOW YOU'RE DYING TO GET BACK TO IT. BACK TO THE LIFE.
BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO. NOT UNTIL YOU PASS THE TEST.
I KNOW CAP AND FELICIA MEAN WELL...
OKAY.
IT FEELS WEIRD DOING THIS WITHOUT THE SUIT.
BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.
I'M NOT MEANT TO LIE IN A BED. I'M NOT MEANT TO WALK.
YOU CAN'T HAVE THE SUIT.
BUT I WANT THE SUIT.
MJ GAVE ME THE SUIT, AND I'M NOT GIVING IT TO YOU.
WHAT? WHY NOT?
BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE NOT SPIDER-MAN.
I'M MEANT TO SOAR.
RIGHT NOW, HE'S SPIDER-MAN.
SPIDERMAN

"SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"
BEYOND CORPORATION OBSERVATION ROOM 395.
Right Now.
OKAY, BEN.
AFTER A READJUSTMENT, THERE CAN SOMETIMES BE SOME TEMPORARY MNEMONIC DRIFT. WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALL SQUARED AWAY SO YOU CAN GET BACK TO DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST.
OKAY.
SHOOT.
THIS WILL BE PRETTY SIMPLE.
I'LL RUN THROUGH YOUR ROGUES' GALLERY, AND YOU NAME THEM.
HOBGOBLIN.
I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE.
NO, THAT'S FINE, VILLAIN NAME IS ENOUGH. READY?
BEYOND
VENOM.
VERMIN.
VULTURE--
--ARE THESE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER?
NO, IT'S ON RANDOM. BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS, RIGHT?
HRRNN. DOCTOR OCTOPUS.

DAY 2.
THERE YOU GO!
ANIMAL
MAYBE I'M NOT WEARING THE WEBS, THE BIG WHITE BUG EYES, AND THE SPIDER ON MY CHEST.
BUT I'VE GOT MY WEB-SHOOTERS, AND THE FACADES ARE STREAKING PAST ME, AND FOR A MOMENT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
LOOK, NOT THAT I DON'T APPRECIATE IT, BUT I'VE BEEN DOING THIS SINCE I WAS A KID--
YEAH, YEAH.
BUT YOU'RE NOT A KID ANYMORE, SPIDER. YOU'RE AN ADULT MAN WHO'S BARELY PAST A POTENTIALLY CAREER-ENDING INJURY.
BASICS.
FUNDAMENTALS.
YOU'RE SWINGING LIKE EDDIE BROCK--NO STYLE, NO FINESSE, JUST TRYING NOT TO FALL.
DON'T THINK THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU'RE ONE MISSED THWIP AWAY FROM BECOMING STREET PIZZA.
AND THEN THAT MOMENT ENDS, AND I KNOW THAT SHE'S RIGHT.
LUCKILY THOUGH, YOU'VE GOT ME.
BECAUSE THE BLACK CAT IS THE SWINGING-EST THERE IS.


DAY 3.
FELICIA'S GOOD. SHE'S GREAT.
GOTTA BE BETTER THAN YESTERDAY, COME ON, COME ON!
BUT AT THIS?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BETTER.
KEEP UP!
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I'M BAD AT, BELIEVE ME...
SWOOSH
...BUT THIS SHOULDN'T BE ONE OF THEM.
AAAGGH!!
KRASH
SORRY!

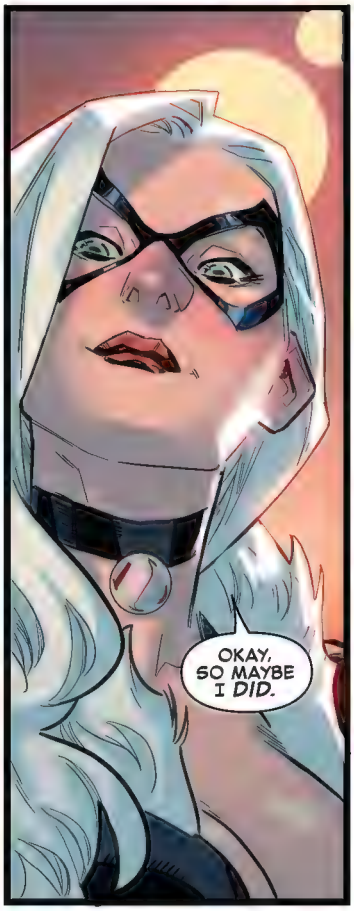
DAY 4.
SPRONG
YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE ME!
YOU STILL WITH ME, SPIDER?
ALMOST--
ALMOST GOT YOU--
OKAY, OKAY, SHEESH.
LET'S TAKE A BREATHER.
HANG ON, I THINK I HAVE SOME WATER AND ORANGE SLICES IN HERE.
I'VE...
KAFF
...I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DRINK ANYTHING BUT CHAMPAGNE.
YEAH, WELL, CAP PACKED IT.

WHAT WAS THAT OUT THERE? COME ON, SPIDER. YOU'VE GOT TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.
CUT ME SOME SLACK, OKAY?
CUT YOU SOME SLACK? WHEN HAS SPIDER-MAN EVER BEEN CUT ANY SLACK?
SO YOU'RE AT WHAT, 75%?
I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU.
YOUR 75% SHOULD BE ABOUT EQUAL TO MY 100%.
I DON'T KNOW IF I TRUST THAT MATH.
YOU HAVE SUPER-POWERS.
I DON'T.
WHAT, DID YOU FORGET? DID YOU THINK I GOT BIT BY A RADIOACTIVE EARTHA KITT?
YOU DO TOO HAVE SUPER-POWERS. IT WAS A WHOLE THING. REMEMBER?
SURE, A LITTLE BAD LUCK HERE AND THERE. BIG DEAL!
BUT YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN. YOU CAN DO WHATEVER A SPIDER CAN!
YOU WANT TO GET OUT THERE AGAIN? THEN SHAPE UP!

HEY.

WHAT?

YOU SAID I WAS SPIDER-MAN.


OKAY, SO MAYBE I DID.

I'M STILL NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU THE SUIT THOUGH.
OH, COME ON!
WE BUILD
BEYOND

BEYOND CORPORATION
OBSERVATION ROOM 816.
Right Now.
SO, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME OUT OF HERE, MAXINE?
THAT IS THE QUESTION, ISN'T IT, DR. KAFKA?
WHEN AM I GOING TO LET YOU OUT OF HERE.
BECAUSE MAKE NO MISTAKE: I AM THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WORLD WHO HAS THE POWER TO ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THIS ROOM.
COME OFF IT, MAXINE.
I HAVE RIGHTS.
DO YOU, THOUGH?
AFTER ALL, DR. ASHLEY KAFKA IS DEAD. THE RECORDS CERTAINLY SHOW THAT.
OH, I KNOW ALL ABOUT DR. MALUS' FALSIFICATION OF YOUR BLOOD WORK.
I AM A PERSON, MAXINE.
I AM DR. ASHLEY KAFKA--
NO.
YOU ARE A CLONE OF DR. ASHLEY KAFKA.
WHICH LEAVES YOU IN A RATHER PRECARIOUS SITUATION, HUMAN RIGHTS-WISE.

WHICH WAS NOT A PROBLEM, WHEN BEYOND GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT YOU INTO OUR *SPHERE OF INFLUENCE*.
BUT AFTER YOUR *BETRAYAL* OF THE COMPANY...
YOU SEEM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH *BETRAYAL*, MAXINE.
WHERE COULD *THAT* COME FROM, DO YOU THINK?
WAS IT--
DON'T.
I *KILLED* AND *ATE* MY INSECURITIES IN A WILDLY *UNETHICAL* AND *EXPERIMENTAL* PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG-INDUCED *VISION QUEST* YEARS AGO.
THERE'S *NOTHING* IN MY MIND THAT YOU CAN TURN AGAINST ME.
YOU ARE *UNQUESTIONABLY GIFTED*, DR. KAFKA.
I WOULD *LIKE* TO CLEAR UP THIS INCIDENT OF INSUBORDINATION AND GET YOU BACK TO WORK.
HOWEVER, IF YOU'D RATHER *NOT* PLAY BALL...
...WELL, THE BEYOND CORPORATION CAN ALWAYS FIND A USE FOR A *CLONE*.

DAY 5.
...DON'T KNOW WHY SHE CAN'T JUST GIVE YOU THE MASK.
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING!
I'M NOT DARE DEVIL
HEYYY, THERE'S THE FELLAS!
ERRR!
CAP, SPIDER, THIS IS BRUNO AND THE DOC. THEY'RE GOING TO HELP US OUT WITH TONIGHT'S EXERCISE.
ERR. I JUST WANT TO SAY, YOU WERE AN INSPIRATION TO ME WHEN I WAS IN THE ARMY, SIR.
WHAT WAS YOUR M.O.S., SOLDIER?
HELICOPTER PILOT, SIR.
I'LL BET IT WAS THE ARMY'S LOSS WHEN YOU MUSTERED OUT.
OH, ER, NOT REALLY...
BRUNO, GIVE THE MAN SOME AIR.
ALL RIGHT, SPIDER. WE'RE GOING TO SEE HOW WELL YOU WORK TOGETHER HERE.
MAKE SURE CAP DOESN'T BONK YOU IN THE HEAD AGAIN, YEAH?
JEWELRY
OKAY.
SO, WHAT ARE WE DOING?
I'M NOT DARE DEVIL

OH, RIGHT.
YOU JUST HAVE TO CATCH THE CROOKS, BOYS.
BECAUSE WE JUST ROBBED THIS PLACE.
HERE WE GO!
SKREEEEECH
I'M NO DAR DEV
THWP

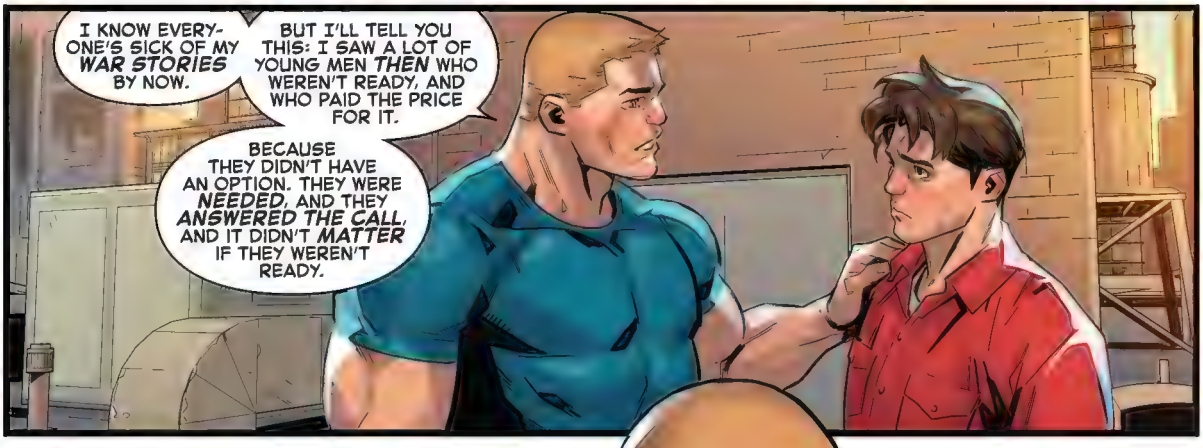
RIGHT NOW.
SHRIEK.
RHINO.
SHOCKER.
KRAVEN.
LIZARD.
CARRION.

DAY 6.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
THE ENTIRE 2ND PANZER DIVISION COULDN'T HURT ME.
DO YOUR WORST.
WOOO!
GO ON, SPIDER! KILL THE BUM!
GOOD--
NOT BAD--
HMM.

YOU'RE FASTER THAN THAT.
I KNOW YOU PULL YOUR PUNCHES WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING AVERAGE FOLKS--
--AND YOU SHOULD--
--BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE.

I'M NOT.
THIS IS AS FAST AS I CAN GO.

AS FAST AS YOU CAN GO RIGHT NOW.
YOU'RE USED TO BEING SPIDER-MAN, SON. YOU'RE NOT THERE YET.
BUT WE'LL GET YOU THERE.


I KNOW EVERY-ONE'S SICK OF MY WAR STORIES BY NOW.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS: I SAW A LOT OF YOUNG MEN THEN WHO WEREN'T READY, AND WHO PAID THE PRICE FOR IT.
BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE AN OPTION. THEY WERE NEEDED, AND THEY ANSWERED THE CALL, AND IT DIDN'T MATTER IF THEY WEREN'T READY.

BUT YOU'VE GOT THE TIME. AND YOU'VE GOT THE COACHES.
SO HIT ME, SOLDIER.
AND IT BETTER BE LIKE YOU MEAN IT, BECAUSE I'M NOT ABOUT TO MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU.

RIGHT NOW.
THAT SHOULD DO IT!
I'LL JUST TAKE THESE BACK...
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE CLEARED FOR THE FIELD.
YOU MUST BE RARING TO GO, I'LL BET.
LIKE YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY, "WITH GREAT POWER, THERE MUST ALSO COME..."
I DON'T GET IT.
WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME WHAT?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT SCHOOL.
TESTS, EXAMS, WHATEVER.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY THING.
BUT THIS ONE'S KILLING ME.
I FEEL MY LIGAMENTS CREAKING. MY JOINTS SHUDDERING. MY HEART HAMMERING.
I'M NOT READY.
BUT I HAVE TO BE, IF I WANT TO BE SPIDER-MAN.
OOFF!
TWO BURGLARS. NO PROBLEM.
NO PROBLEM FOR SPIDER-MAN.
THWIPP
NO PROB--
OOFF!
THAT WAS A GOOD HIT...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS ONE.

OKAY, OKAY, UNCLE!
SKAFF
SHAKK
GOD.
YOU OKAY, SPIDER?
TAKE A MINUTE, SON. WE'LL RUN IT AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE READY.
I CAN SEE IT ON THEIR FACES. THEY'RE DISAPPOINTED, SECOND-GUESSING THEMSELVES. AND ME.
I SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER.
I HAVE TO DO BETTER.
NEVER GIVE UP.
I'M GOOD.
LET'S GO AGAIN.
BECAUSE I'M SPIDER-MAN.

EPILOGUE.
Right Now.
"MAKE SURE TO DRY-CLEAN THAT COSTUME," SHE SAYS.
GOD. FELICIA HARDY.
WHY IS MARY JANE WEARING A BLACK CAT COSTUME? BETTER PICK UP MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND! --NL
WHAT A--
AHHHH!
HEY, MJ.
WE NEED TO TALK.
ALSO... WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
MJ (Watson)
DOWN IN FLAMES 2

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND VARIANT BY
PEACH MOMOKO

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND

Eight hours to sunup.
NOW, NORMALLY, WHEN SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT IS IN THE HOSPITAL, YOU SEND FLOWERS. CARDS.
MAYBE HANG OUT AND WATCH A FEW EPISODES OF *THE SAINT* ON RERUNS.
BUT A SUPER HERO? EVEN ONE WHO'S THERE INCOGNITO?
YOU CAN'T LEAVE THEM ALONE.
SURE, THERE'S PROBABLY BAD GUYS GUNNING FOR THEM. BUT SO FAR AS I KNOW, I'M THE BADDEST ONE OUT THERE WHO KNOWS WHO SPIDER REALLY IS.
NO, THE REASON YOU NEED TO HAVE PEOPLE KEEPING EYES ON GUYS LIKE HIM...
...IS TO *KEEP* HIM THERE.

SPIDER'S GOING TO GET BACK OUT THERE.
RUNNING THE ROOFTOPS, THROWING DOWN WITH BAD GUYS, ALL THAT MISGUIDED SUPER HERO NONSENSE.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY: TAKING HIS NAME BACK.
WE'RE ALL WORKING TO GET HIM BACK OUT THERE, GET HIM READY, GET HIM UP TO WHAT SPIDER-MAN NEEDS TO BE.
BUT HE'S NOT READY YET. AND IF THERE'S NOT SOMEONE WATCHING HIM LIKE A HAWK...
YO RED, IS HE ASLEEP?
...THEN LICKETY-SPLIT, HE'LL GUILT HIMSELF RIGHT OUT THAT WINDOW, BACK INTO THE FIGHT...
...AND GET HIMSELF DEAD.
COME ON IN, FELICIA.
OR SHOULD I SAY, BLACK CAT.

YOU GOT A NAME, DEAD MAN?
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS, FELICIA. THOUGH MAYBE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN MY...REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES.
PARKER ROBBINS. THE HOOD.
UH-OH.
AND THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH. LET ME TELL YOU HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO.
I'M SURE YOU HEARD THAT I LOST SOMETHING A LITTLE WHILE AGO. SOMETHING NEAR AND DEAR TO ME.
WELL, I GOT TO THINKING. WHO'S GOT THE REP? THE REP THAT SAYS "WHATEVER YOU WANT, SHE CAN GET IT FOR YOU"?
WHY, THE BLACK CAT, OF COURSE.
AND WHEN I FOUND OUT THE BLACK CAT WAS VISITING SOME WASHED-UP PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE HOSPITAL, SOME NOBODY SHE OBVIOUSLY CARED FOR, I GOT TO THINKING MORE.

YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME MY HOOD BACK, BLACK CAT.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT BY SUNUP, OR I PUT A BULLET IN THIS GUY'S BRAINPAN.
THEN I PUT A SECOND ONE THROUGH MODERATELY FAMOUS ACTRESS MARY JANE WATSON'S HEAD.
YOU GET ME?
YEAH. OKAY.
YOU GOT IT, ROBBINS.
ONE THING, THOUGH: I NEED THE GIRL.
WHAT? WHY?
SHE'S IN MY CREW, YOU CREEP. I NEED HER FOR THE JOB.

OKAY.
BUT DON'T SCREW ME ON THIS, FELICIA.
YOUR LITTLE FRIEND OVER HERE IS BETTING HIS *LIFE* THAT YOU WON'T.

TWO THINGS. WE'LL GET YOUR HOOD OR WHATEVER.
BUT YOU DON'T POINT YOUR GUN AT HIM. OR WE'LL *KNOW.*
OH YEAH? HOW?
MAGIC, PSYCHIC POWERS, MUTANT ABILITIES, TAKE YOUR PICK! IT DOESN'T MATTER.

SURE. *WHY NOT.* I CAN AFFORD TO BE GRACIOUS.
SUNUP, BLACK CAT. AND DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT CALLING FOR HELP.

I HAVE *LITERALLY NOTHING TO LOSE.*

"SHE'S IN THE CREW"?
HOW THE HELL ELSE WAS I GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF THERE?
I DON'T LIKE LEAVING THE HOOD WITH SPIDER, BUT LEAVING YOU THERE? HE'D NEVER FORGIVE ME.
AND WHAT WAS WITH ALL THAT GUN-POINTING STUFF?
SHE DOESN'T SAY IT.
THAT CREEP POINTS A GUN AT PETER AND HIS SPIDER-SENSE GOES OFF. HE'LL POP RIGHT OUT OF BED BEFORE HE'S EVEN AWAKE.
AND HE'S NOT IN ANY SHAPE TO DEAL WITH THAT RIGHT NOW.
AH. RIGHT.
OF COURSE SHE DOESN'T.
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, CAT?
SHE'S PERFECT AFTER ALL.
THE PLAN IS FOR YOU TO GO SOMEWHERE SAFE AND LAY LOW UNTIL I SORT ALL THIS OUT.
SHE DOESN'T SAY IT.
NO WAY.
SHE DOESN'T SAY THAT THIS IS MY FAULT.

LOOK, RED, I LOVE THE ENERGY. *REAL* GREAT STUFF.
BUT I'M A *PROFESSIONAL.* AND YOU'RE AN *ACTRESS.*
YOU'RE NOT *REALLY* IN THE CREW.

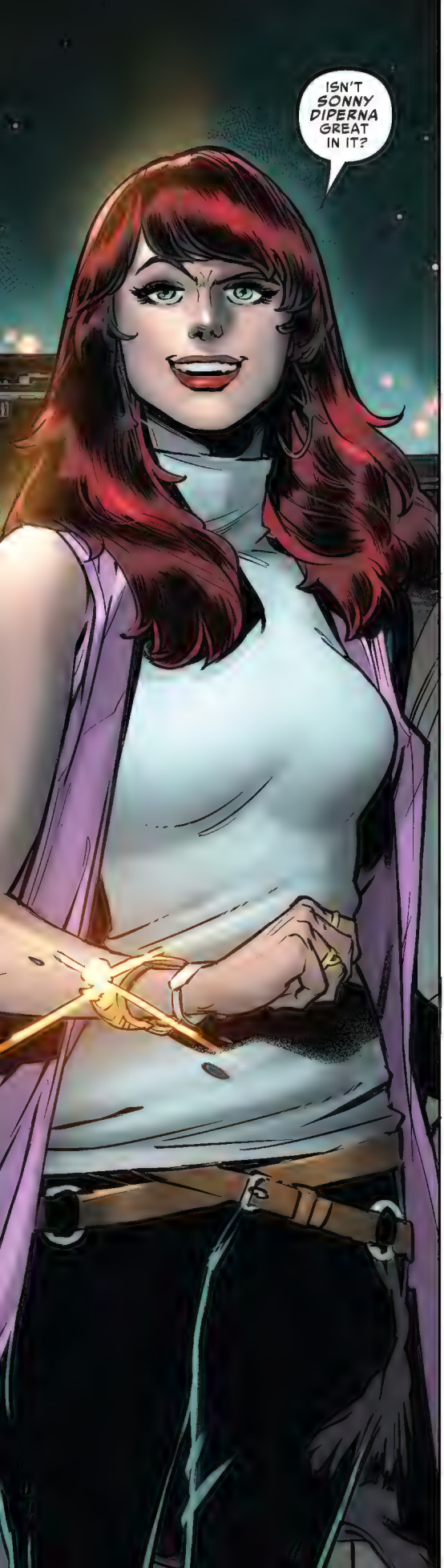
THERE'S A CRAZY GUY IN THERE WITH A GUN ON PETER.
DO YOU *REALLY* THINK I'M GOING TO *"LAY LOW"?* AND DO YOU *REALLY* HAVE THE TIME TO *ARGUE* WITH ME?

SO *YEAH.* I THINK I *AM* IN THE CREW.

FINE.
HAVE IT *YOUR WAY,* RED.
BUT YOU BETTER NOT SLOW ME DOWN.
YAAAAAY!

Seven hours to sunup.
SO, SPOILERS:
THE HOOD GOT INTO IT WITH HAWKEYE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.* LOTS OF RUCKUS ON THE STREETS, LOTS OF SPILT BLOOD. PRETTY UGLY SITUATION, ALL TOLD.
*IN HAWKEYE: FREEFALL. --NO CHUTE LOWE!
AT THE END OF IT, THE HOOD WAS SANS HIS SIGNATURE ITEM OF CLOTHING, WHICH MEANT HE WAS SANS HIS EVIL MAGIC POWERS.
NO EVIL MAGIC POWERS, NO CRIME BOSS.
NOW, HOW EXACTLY DID PLUCKY ARCHER CLINT BARTON TAKE DOWN A MUG WITH THE KIND OF JUICE THAT THE HOOD HAD?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
SO GOOD, IN FACT, THAT IT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK THE GUY THAT THE STREETS SAY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RESOLVING THAT LITTLE DUSTUP.
COUNT LUCHINO NEFARIA.
NOT A GUY YOU WANT TO MESS WITH.
AND NOT A GUY YOU WANT TO BUG ON MOVIE NIGHT.
HIYA, COUNT...

...DID I MISS THE TRAILERS?
MS. HARDY.
PRAY TELL, WHAT COULD *POSSIBLY* POSSESS YOU TO INTERRUPT MY *SOLE RESPITE* FROM THE STRESSFUL LIFE OF A CRIMINAL OVERLORD?
I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR MOVIE, COUNT. BUT I'M UP AGAINST THE WALL HERE AND RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
I NEED TO KNOW HOW YOU HELPED HAWKEYE BEAT THE HOOD.
MY "HELP" COST CLINTON BARTON *THREE MILLION DOLLARS.* DO YOU HAVE THREE MILLION DOLLARS WITH *YOU?*
I CAN *GET* IT FOR YOU, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT. IT'LL TAKE ME A FEW DAYS THOUGH, A WEEK MAYBE.
THEN COME AND SEE ME WHEN YOU HAVE IT. AND MAKE AN *APPOINTMENT.*
I NEED TO KNOW *TONIGHT,* COUNT.
WELL. HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU, THEN.
GOOD *BYE,* MS. HARDY.
HEY, ARE YOU WATCHING *DIG THAT CRAZY GRAVE?*


ISN'T SONNY DIPERNA GREAT IN IT?

IS THAT... MARY JANE WATSON?

OH BROTHER...
THE MARY JANE WATSON?

MS. WATSON. AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE.
YOU WORKED WITH DIPERNA IN UP IN SMOKE, DOWN IN FLAMES! SAD ABOUT THE PREMIERE, BY THE WAY.*
*IT GOT INTERRUPTED IN SINISTER WAR #1! --IN-THE-KNOW KNICK!

MINIONS!
A SEAT FOR MS. WATSON!
SONNY DIPERNA IS MY FAVORITE ACTOR, MS. WATSON. HE IS A GENIUS, AN ARTIST, A TREASURE.
PLEASE, MY DEAR. YOU MUST TELL ME ALL ABOUT HIM.
HE'S SUCH A GENTLEMAN, COUNT. BUT HE HAS AN EDGE, YOU CAN TELL...
MY DEAR, YOU MUST CALL ME LUCHINO...
THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE, BOYS.
I GOT THE LIST YOU WANTED, BOSS. EVERYONE WHO WAS THERE THE DAY THE HOOD LOST HIS JUICE.
LOVE IT. WHO DO WE GOT?
"ARMADILLO, FANCY DAN, OX, MR. FEAR--"
"GROSS."
"--SHOCKER, RHINO, AND TOMBSTONE."
"YIKES. LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US."

"SO, HERE'S THE SCOOP, FELICIA.

"THE HOOD'S...ERR... *HOOD* IS SOME KIND OF DEMON THING, GAVE HIM DEMONIC POWERS.

"SO HAWKEYE HAD TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. HE WENT TO LUCHINO-- *COUNT NEFARIA*--

"--WHO IS AN *ABSOLUTE DOLL*. I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM--

"--AND BOUGHT *ANOTHER* DEMON FROM HIM. A DEMON THAT *ATE* THE EVIL HOOD, LEAVING ROBBINS OUT OF LUCK.

"THIS DEMON WAS IN THE SHAPE OF A *DUFFLE BAG*, AND NO ONE'S SEEN IT SINCE.

"WE RUN DOWN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE THAT DAY, AND WE FIND THE BAG-SLASH-DEMON. WE FIND *THAT*, WE FIND THE HOOD."

Two hours to sunup.
SO WHO'S LEFT?
THE WORST ONE.
TOMBSTONE.
AND TOMBSTONE, WE CAN'T CHARM, CAN'T CON, CAN'T BEAT DOWN.
TOMBSTONE, WE HAVE TO ROB.
WELL, GOOD THING WE HAVE THE BEST THIEF IN TOWN ON OUR SIDE!
YOU ARE THE BEST THIEF IN TOWN, RIGHT?
BITE YOUR TONGUE. OF COURSE I AM.
BUT HERE'S THE THING:
TOMBSTONE'S SMARTER THAN ALL THOSE OTHER IDIOTS PUT TOGETHER.
HE'S GOT HIS EAR TO THE STREETS. ALWAYS.
THE WAY WE'VE BEEN TEARING THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD TONIGHT? HE'S GOING TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.

"HE'S GOING TO KNOW THAT WE'RE COMING FOR HIM.
"AND HE'LL BE WAITING."
SHING
SO.
YOU READY TO SUIT UP, RED?

"YOU KNOW I AM."
FSSHHHH

AH!
I KNEW IT.
YOU AFTER MY PET DEMON, LITTLE KITTY?
I KNEW IT WOULD COME IN HANDY EVENTUALLY, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD DELIVER THE BLACK CAT RIGHT TO ME.
NOW. THEY TELL ME THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT. WHY DON'T YOU AND I FIND OUT TOGETHER?
KLIK
LOVE TO, BABY.
BUT I'M ON A TIMELINE. AND YOU'RE TOO SLOW.
I ALREADY RIPPED YOU OFF.
HOW--?
NO ONE'S THAT GOOD--

THAT'S THE THING, TOMBSTONE.

THE BLACK CAT *IS* THAT GOOD!

RACE YOU TO THE BOTTOM!

NO WAY.

NO ONE DOES *TOMBSTONE* LIKE THAT!
HAS SHE DONE SOMETHING WITH HER HAIR?

LOT OF PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF THE MASK.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, PEOPLE ARE LAZY.
OUR BRAINS WORK IN SHORTHAND.
WE SEE SOMETHING WE RECOGNIZE, AND OUR BRAINS LOCK ON TO THAT DETAIL.
AND EVERYTHING ELSE, WE FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH WHAT WE EXPECT.
YOU'RE IN A HIGH-STRESS SITUATION AND YOU SEE WHITE HAIR, A CHIC CATSUIT, AND THAT LITTLE MASK...
...YOUR BRAIN TELLS YOU:
"THAT'S THE BLACK CAT."
NO MATTER ALL THE PARTS THAT DON'T MATCH UP.

AND THAT'S WITHOUT BRINGING IN SOMEONE WHO MAKES A LIVING BEING OTHER PEOPLE.
AFTER ALL, SHE'S A PROFESSIONAL.
AND SO, THE OSCAR FOR "BEST PERFORMANCE IN A CRIMINAL ENDEAVOR"?
RAAAGGH!
Mary Jane Watson.

Ninety minutes to sunup.
WELL, WE GOT THE BAG.
DEMON.
SURE. NOW WHAT?
NOW, RED, WE TRY AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE IT COUGH UP ROBBINS' HOOD.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, YOU HORRIBLE THING?
WE GOT YOU OUT OF TOMBSTONE'S SAFE. WHAT'S IT GOING TO TAKE TO GET YOU TO PLAY BALL?
I thought you'd never ask.

Fifteen minutes to sunup.
TOUGH LUCK, PAL.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR GIRLFRIENDS DROPPED THE...
...BALL?
NOT SO FAST.
TA-DAAA!
TAKE THAT OFF.

HOW'D YOU DO IT?
WELL, WE *BUSTED OUR ASSES* ALL NIGHT, SO THERE WAS THAT.
BUT REALLY, ROBBINS, IT'S ALL JUST DOWN TO *WANTING.*

YOU CAN GET *ANYTHING* IN THIS WORLD, IF YOU KNOW WHAT SOMEONE WANTS, AND IF YOU CAN GET IT FOR *THEM.*

YOU WANTED YOUR HOOD BACK. NEFARIA WANTED HOT HOLLYWOOD GOSS. TOMBSTONE WANTED TO SKIN ME ALIVE SO BAD HE TOOK HIS EYE OFF THE PRIZE.

AHHH...
EVEN THE BAG-DEMON.
IT WANTED SOMETHING TOO.

WAIT, THIS IS *WRONG--*

AFTER IT ATE YOUR HOOD, IT GOT A TASTE FOR THE OWNER.
IT WANTED THE COMPLETE SET.

LIKE I SAID, ROBBINS.
YOU GET SOMEONE WHAT *THEY* WANT, YOU GET WHAT *YOU* WANT.
AND I WANTED *YOU* OUT OF *MY* HAIR.

THAT WAS HORRIBLE.
ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT WAS GREAT.
HOW DID HE SLEEP THROUGH ALL OF THAT?
PLEASE.
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND I HAVE BEEN PUTTING HIM THROUGH THE WRINGER.* SPIDER WAKING UP ON HIS OWN WAS THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES.
*IN ASM #87. --NO BURPEES NICK
SNRRKK.
--HUH? WHU?
OH. OKAY.
IT'S THIS DREAM AGAIN.
BE GENTLE, PLEASE.

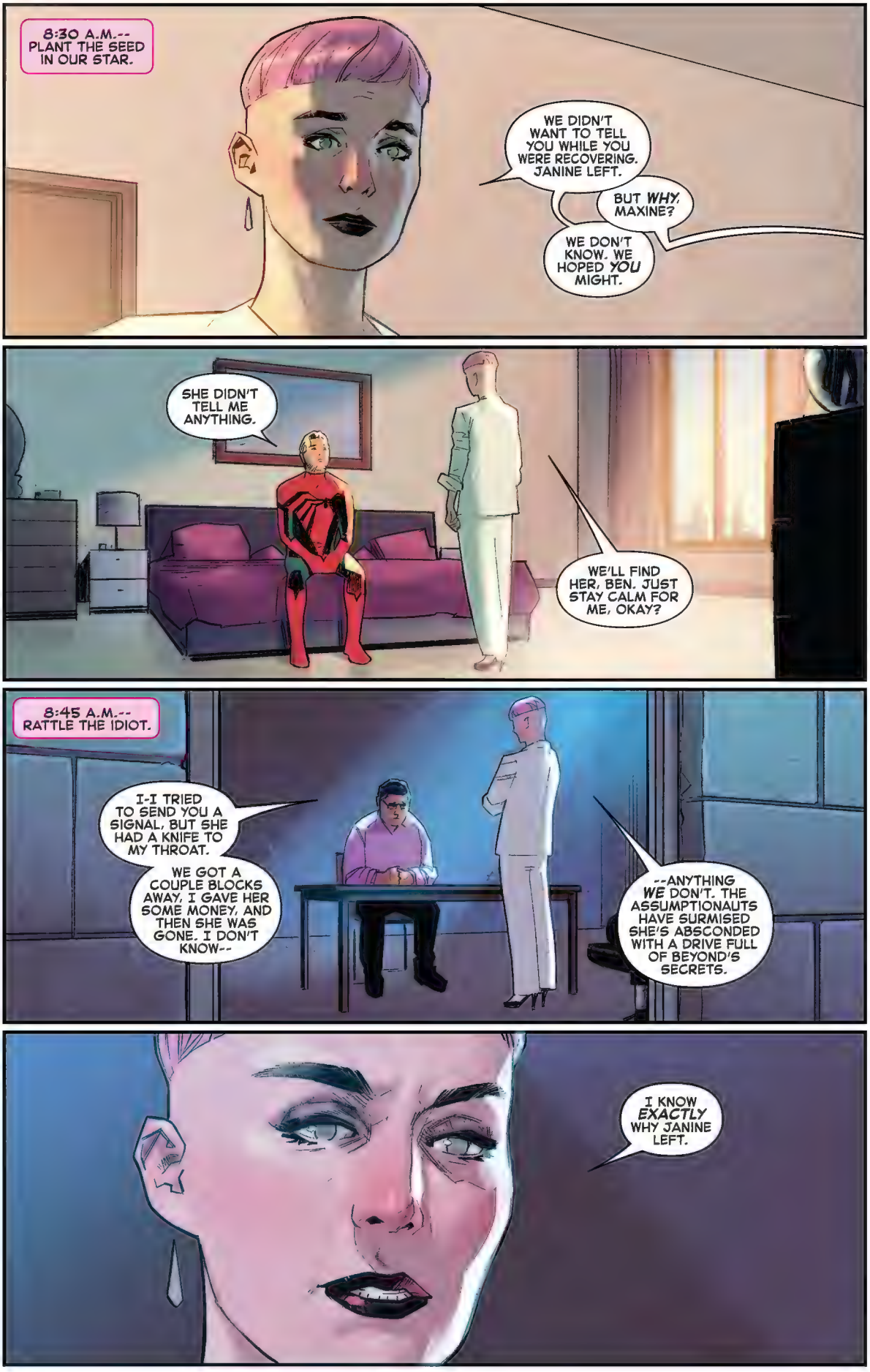
YOU DID GOOD, RED.
"WELL."
SHUT IT.
I MEAN, I WASN'T SURE IF YOUR DUMP TRUCK ASS WOULD FIT IN ONE OF MY SUITS, BUT HEY, WE MADE IT IT WORK.
HEY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SOME OF THE STUFF WE GOT UP TO TONIGHT. I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR WHAT WE DID TO THE SHOCKER.
DON'T. EVERYONE DOES THAT TO THE SHOCKER, THAT'S WHAT HE'S FOR.
I'LL ADMIT IT. IT WAS KIND OF FUN BEING THE BAD GIRL FOR A NIGHT.
FELICIA? ARE YOU OKAY?
"THE BAD GIRL."
I HATE THAT THAT'S WHAT I AM IN HIS LIFE. HIS HISTORY.

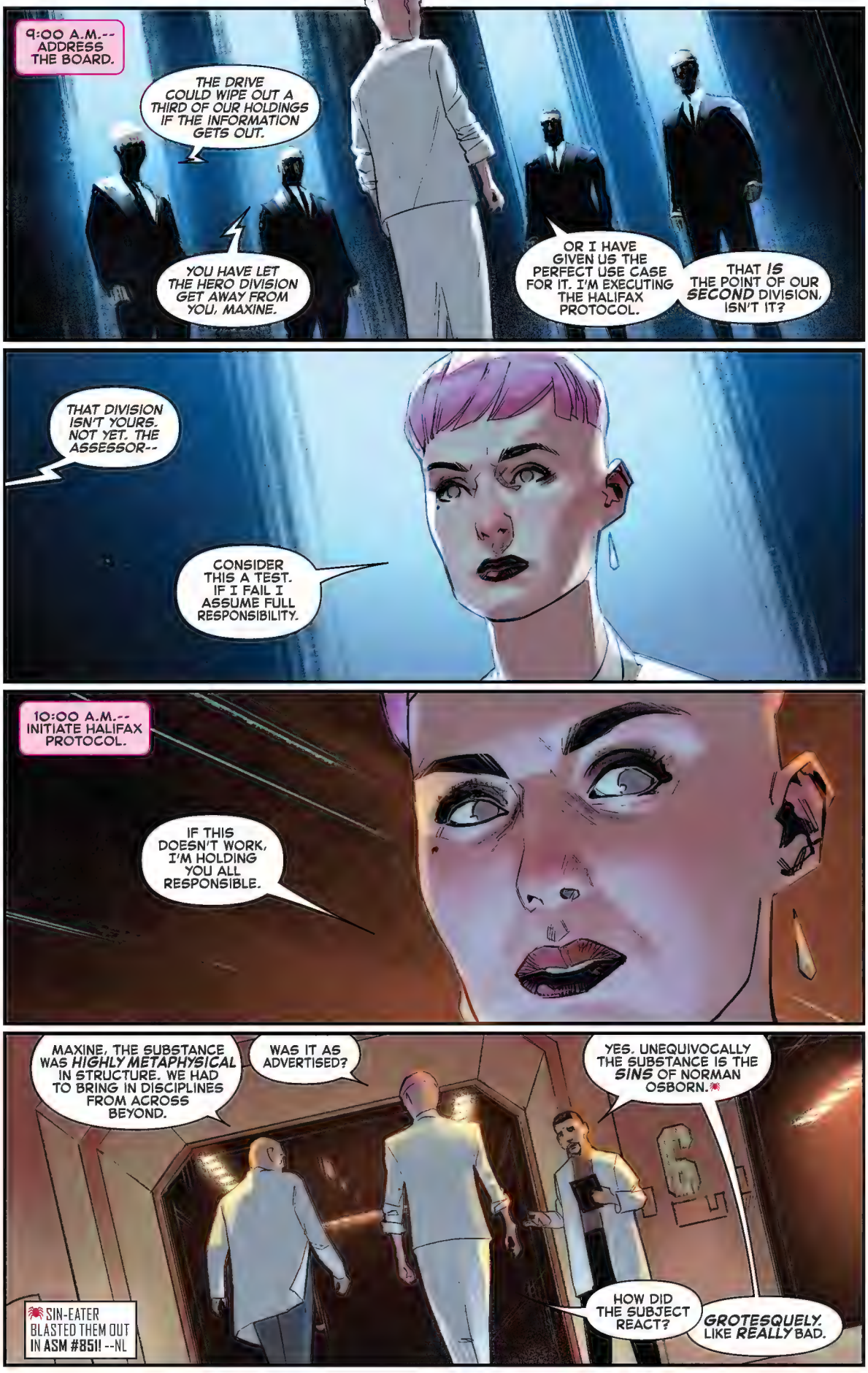
I'M NOT JEALOUS OF YOU. I'M NOT TRYING TO GET HIM BACK.
BUT OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS IMPORTANT TO ME. IT WAS PART OF WHAT MADE ME WHO I AM. HE WAS THE FIRST MAN I EVER LOVED.
BUT FROM THE OUTSIDE?
I'M "THE BAD GIRL."
THE DISTRACTION, UNTIL THE GOOD GIRL WINS IN THE END. THE PERFECT ONE.
IT SUCKS.
SNRRKK...!
WHAT--?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?
HAHA HAHAHA!
OH GOD...
IT'S JUST...
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL.
I WAS THE BAD GIRL FIRST!

I WAS THE PARTY GIRL, ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE SOMEWHERE.
AND THEN THERE WAS GWEN STACY.
AND SHE WAS PERFECT.
I'M NOT EXAGGERATING. SHE WAS.
HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO LIVE UP TO THE MEMORY OF A DEAD GIRL?
YOU'RE STILL IMPORTANT TO HIM, FELICIA.
HELL, YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME. I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS TONIGHT IF YOU WEREN'T.
YOU'RE NOT A FOOTNOTE IN ANYONE'S LIFE.
...
THANKS.
UGH.
YOU ARE PERFECT, AREN'T YOU.
YUP. AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.

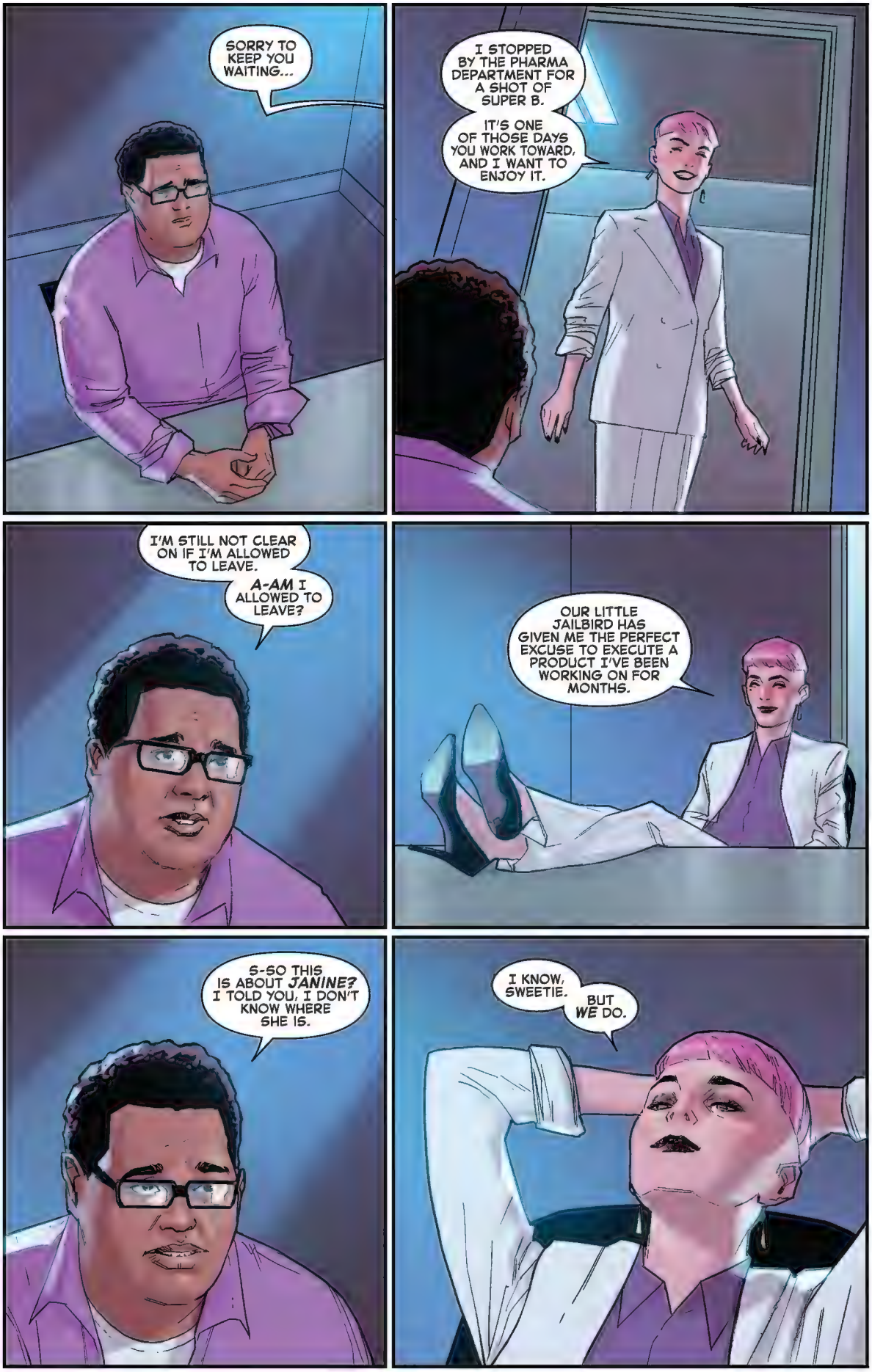
Sunup.

GOD.
HOW DOES THAT NERD KEEP PULLING IN BABES LIKE US?
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE HE KEEPS GETTING BEAT UP ALL THE TIME.
LIKE A PITY THING.
HA!


8:30 A.M.-- PLANT THE SEED IN OUR STAR.
WE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU WHILE YOU WERE RECOVERING. JANINE LEFT.
BUT WHY, MAXINE?
WE DON'T KNOW. WE HOPED YOU MIGHT.
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING.
WE'LL FIND HER, BEN. JUST STAY CALM FOR ME, OKAY?
8:45 A.M.-- RATTLE THE IDIOT.
I-I TRIED TO SEND YOU A SIGNAL, BUT SHE HAD A KNIFE TO MY THROAT.
WE GOT A COUPLE BLOCKS AWAY, I GAVE HER SOME MONEY, AND THEN SHE WAS GONE. I DON'T KNOW--
--ANYTHING WE DON'T. THE ASSUMPTIONAUTS HAVE SURMISED SHE'S ABSCONDED WITH A DRIVE FULL OF BEYOND'S SECRETS.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHY JANINE LEFT.


9:00 A.M.-- ADDRESS THE BOARD.
THE DRIVE COULD WIPE OUT A THIRD OF OUR HOLDINGS IF THE INFORMATION GETS OUT.
YOU HAVE LET THE HERO DIVISION GET AWAY FROM YOU, MAXINE.
OR I HAVE GIVEN US THE PERFECT USE CASE FOR IT. I'M EXECUTING THE HALIFAX PROTOCOL.
THAT IS THE POINT OF OUR SECOND DIVISION, ISN'T IT?
THAT DIVISION ISN'T YOURS. NOT YET. THE ASSESSOR--
CONSIDER THIS A TEST. IF I FAIL I ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY.
10:00 A.M.-- INITIATE HALIFAX PROTOCOL.
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I'M HOLDING YOU ALL RESPONSIBLE.
MAXINE, THE SUBSTANCE WAS HIGHLY METAPHYSICAL IN STRUCTURE. WE HAD TO BRING IN DISCIPLINES FROM ACROSS BEYOND.
WAS IT AS ADVERTISED?
YES. UNEQUIVOCALLY THE SUBSTANCE IS THE SINS OF NORMAN OSBORN.
HOW DID THE SUBJECT REACT?
GROTESQUELY. LIKE REALLY BAD.
SIN-EATER BLASTED THEM OUT IN ASM #851! --NL

11:30 A.M. UNLEASH HELL.
THAT'S FANTASTIC.
THUD
MY, MY, MY...
LOOK AT YOU, QUEEN.
QUEEN GOBLIN. YES. I LIKE THAT.
AND THEY SAID I COULDN'T DO VILLAINS.
12:00 P.M. LUNCH.

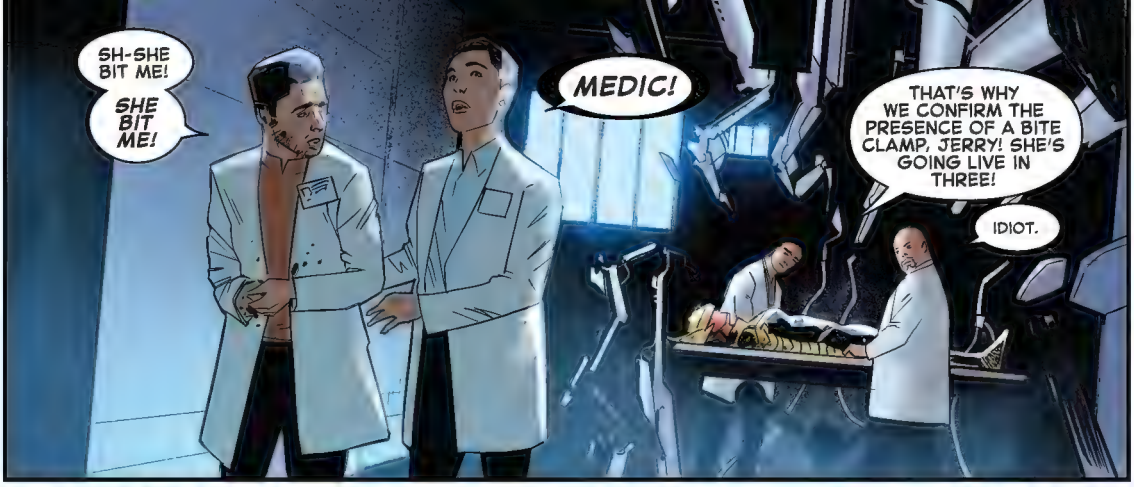

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...
I STOPPED BY THE PHARMA DEPARTMENT FOR A SHOT OF SUPER B.
IT'S ONE OF THOSE DAYS YOU WORK TOWARD, AND I WANT TO ENJOY IT.
I'M STILL NOT CLEAR ON IF I'M ALLOWED TO LEAVE.
A-AM I ALLOWED TO LEAVE?
OUR LITTLE JAILBIRD HAS GIVEN ME THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO EXECUTE A PRODUCT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR MONTHS.
S-SO THIS IS ABOUT JANINE? I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
I KNOW, SWEETIE.
BUT WE DO.

DAILY BUGLE.
THANKS FOR MEETING ME.
NOT A PROBLEM, MARY JANE. I'M THE BOSS WHILE ROBBIE'S AWAY. I'D BE WASTING IT IF I DIDN'T TAKE A LONG LUNCH.
I'M SORRY. I WASN'T REALLY ASKING YOU TO LUNCH. IT'S ABOUT A STORY, AND IT'S SENSITIVE.
THERE'S SOMEONE YOU NEED TO MEET.
GLORY GRANT, THIS IS JANINE GODBE.
HELLO.
OKAY, YOU GOT ME.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

BEN! HOW WE DOING? HEARD WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR LADY TODAY. I'M UPLOADING SOME LEADS INTO YOUR NAV NOW.
I'M LEAVING IN FIVE, WHETHER YOU GUYS ARE READY OR NOT.
OH. OKAY, YEAH. IN A HURRY. I GET IT.
DO WANT TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF A NEW VILLAIN THAT'S BEEN SPOTTED IN THE AREA.
WANNA MAKE SURE YOU'RE SET UP IN CASE YOU RUN INTO HER. LOVE THAT US NERDS GET TO STICK IT TO THE BULLIES NOW.
WHAT?
OH, SORRY. YOU USED TO GET BULLIED IN SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT? I THOUGHT YOU SAID--
I'M LEAVING. YOU CAN UPLOAD THE REST OVER THE AIR.
S-SURE, BEN. WHATEVER YOU SAY.

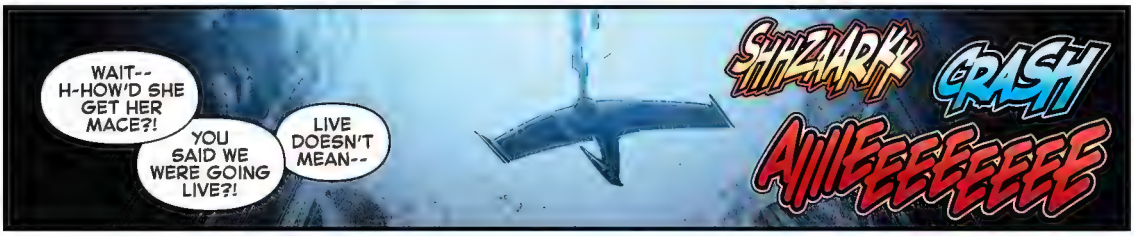
SHE'S AT THE *BUGLE*?
AND THAT'S BAD.
BECAUSE WHATEVER IS ON THAT DRIVE IS *BAD*, RIGHT?
WE FIND HIGHLY MORALIZED WORDS LIKE "BAD" UNPRODUCTIVE FOR HIGH-LEVEL THINKING.
HAVE WE BEEN DOING SOMETHING UNETHICAL HERE?
I'M ASKING YOU A QUESTION.
DO YOU KNOW WHO *JASON HALIFAX* IS?
NO.
SHOULD I?
OH, YES. YES, YOU SHOULD.
HE WAS THE C.E.O. OF A BIG OIL COMPANY. BUILT A SUPER-MANSION IN BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.
RUMOR HAD IT SOME VERY NOT FUNNY THINGS WERE GOING ON AT THAT MANSION, THERE WERE BODIES. THE COPS TAPED IT OFF. THE OIL COMPANY PREPARED A STATEMENT...
THEN NORMAN OSBORN ATTACKED ASGARD A MILE AND A HALF FROM HIS HOUSE.
BACK IN SIEGE! --NL.

THE SENTRY THREW A TANK AT THOR, BLAH BLAH, LIGHTNING, THE VOID... AND THE HALIFAX HOUSE WAS WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BODIES?
HOW DID THEY GET THERE?
WHO CARED? NOBODY. BECAUSE THE SENTRY AND THOR.
THE SUPER HERO THING IS FUN. WE GET TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. CORPORATE CHARITY. MAGAZINE COVERS. PATS ON THE BACK.
BUT WE ARE BEYOND. WE SELL PRODUCTS.
THE SUPER HERO DIVISION IS SMOKE?
A BEYOND BRANDED META-PRODUCT THAT CONTROLS THE NEWS CYCLE AND CAN MAKE PEOPLE, BUILDINGS-- HOPEFULLY CONTINENTS, EVENTUALLY--DISAPPEAR, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT--AND CAN PAY. OF COURSE, HAVING IT LAYING AROUND FOR SITUATIONS LIKE THIS DOESN'T HURT EITHER.
BUT TO DO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT-- SUPER HEROES WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.
YOU'D NEED VILLAINS TOO.


SH-SHE BIT ME!
SHE BIT ME!
MEDIC!
THAT'S WHY WE CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A BITE CLAMP, JERRY! SHE'S GOING LIVE IN THREE!
IDIOT.

SHE PROGRAMMED?
YEP. THE SIGNALS SHOULD EXPRESS THEMSELVES AS OVERPOWERING INSTINCTS.
SHE WON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S ATTACKING THE TARGETS, BUT SHE WON'T QUESTION IT EITHER.
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT. READY FOR LAUNCH?

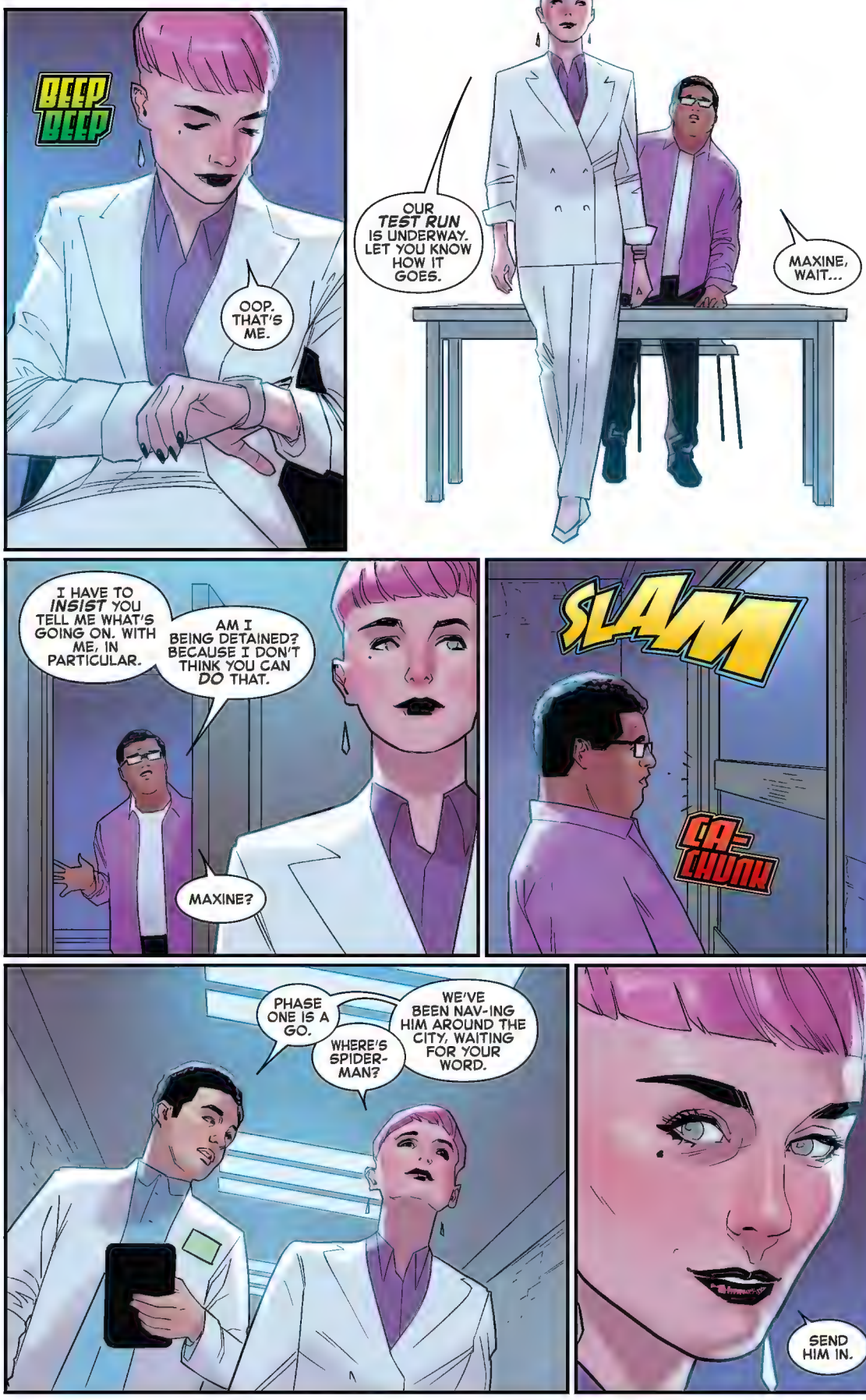
RETRACTING.
LOWER GLIDER.
HERE WE GO.


WAIT-- H-HOW'D SHE GET HER MACE?!
YOU SAID WE WERE GOING LIVE?!
LIVE DOESN'T MEAN--
SHHZARK
GRASH
AIIIEEEEEEEE

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

I DON'T THINK SHE BELIEVED ME.
SHE BELIEVED YOU. BUT THESE ARE *HUGE* ALLEGATIONS. SHE'LL NEED TO RUN IT UPSTAIRS. AND SHE'S ONLY JUST BEGUN TO GRILL YOU.
SHE'LL NEED THE DRIVE, AND PROBABLY A FEW MONTHS TO CATALOG EVERYTHING. DOT THE I'S AND CROSS THE--
JANINE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CHECKING FOR BUGS. IN CASE GLORY, *YOU KNOW*... BEYOND HAS A LOT OF SUBSIDIARIES.
I'M SORRY.
NO, IT'S OKAY.
THINGS HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU, YEAH? OUT THERE?
I THINK ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS FOR ME AND PETER A LOT. BUT YOU AND BEN--
IT NEVER FELT LIKE THE WORLD WANTED US TOGETHER.
NO...IT'S MORE THAN THAT. LIKE MAYBE THE WORLD DIDN'T WANT *US* PERIOD.
IT'S FUNNY, GOING TO YOU FOR HELP. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME MAD AT YOU JUST FOR HAVING THINGS WE DIDN'T.
JANINE...

WHAT?
HAHAHAHAHAHA!
A-ARE YOU HERE FOR ME OR HER?
NEITHER.
NO!
THE DRIVE!


BEEP BEEP
OOP. THAT'S ME.
OUR TEST RUN IS UNDERWAY. LET YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.
MAXINE, WAIT...
I HAVE TO INSIST YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON. WITH ME, IN PARTICULAR.
AM I BEING DETAINED? BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO THAT.
MAXINE?
SLAM
CA-CHUNK
PHASE ONE IS A GO.
WHERE'S SPIDER-MAN?
WE'VE BEEN NAV-ING HIM AROUND THE CITY, WAITING FOR YOUR WORD.
SEND HIM IN.

CHK
FOR YEARS, I LISTENED AS MY WHIMPERING PATIENTS CRIED OVER HORRORS LONG PAST.
I'D OFTEN WONDER HOW A PARENT COULD HURT A CHILD. BE SO CRUEL. BUT NOW, SEEING THE TWO OF YOU COWERING IN FRONT OF ME. POWERLESS.
I GET IT.
WE HAVE TO RUN, JANINE.
IT'S THEM. BEYOND. THEY THINK THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.
I CAN'T LET THEM WIN...
JANINE?
YOU DON'T GET TO WIN!
I'M NOT LOOKING TO WIN...
...I JUST WANT TO SEE YOUR BRAIN.

THWIP
WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS FOR MY BIG ENTRANCE...
...BUT THE BRAIN COMMENT REALLY KILLED THE VIBE.
JUST WAY TOO FAR.
BEN.
I--I KNOW YOU...

CLIFFORD. RIGHT? PRETTY SURE THAT'S IT, BECAUSE I'M DEFINITELY LOOKING AT A BIG RED DOG.
BEN!
YOU WERE NEVER FUNNY!
OKAY, YEAH, I GUESS THAT WAS MORE MEAN, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT--
--IT WAS FUNNIER THAN THIS!
POW
LOOK AT THEM GO. "DAILY BUGLE DESTROYED IN SUPER-POWERED BATTLE." IT'S PERFECT.
DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE DRIVE.
BEAMFORMING AGGRESSION TOWARD TARGET B.
CA-SHANK
AAAAAGHHH!

OKAY, YOU GOT ME. THESE ARE KIND OF COOL.
OOF!
YOUR BOY IS PLAYING WITH MY TOYS...
SO I GET YOURS!
WHAT?
NO!

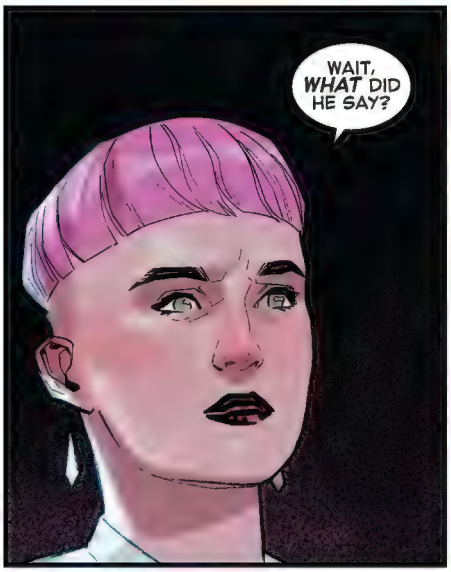
CLANK
SMASH
THE DRIVE!
THEY ALWAYS WIN...
EH...
NOT YET.

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, JANINE. I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.

UH... GUYS?

SHE'S GETTING UP.
ARE YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING?

EH. THE WAY I SEE IT, THAT'S NOT *OUR* PROBLEM.


WAIT, *WHAT* DID HE SAY?

BEN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN? SHE'S DANGEROUS!
YOU'RE RIGHT...

WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
BEN!
H-HE JUST LEFT...
DON'T WORRY...
...I'M STILL HERE.

THEN.
"I MEAN, IT WAS A STRAIGHT-UP HORROR MOVIE OUT THERE.*
"TOTAL BAZONKERS CRAZY.
BE STILL, BABY. THEY DON'T KNOW WE'RE HERE. THEY DON'T SEE--
*THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE DURING KING IN BLACK! --DK
"FINDING SPIDER-MAN IN ALL THAT? NOPE.
OH NO. OH, DEAR GOD, NO!
SKRREEEEEEE!
"SYMBIOTES EVERYWHERE, RUSHING ANYTHING THAT MOVED.
"THE AVENGERS DEFINITELY HAD THEIR HANDS FULL.
"GOD KNOWS WHAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR WERE DOING.
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
KKKRRRRIIIPP
?
HEY, KENNETH--
"SO, Y'KNOW--

--WHAT'S THE FREQUENCY?
KRAAAM
"--I DID WHAT I COULD.

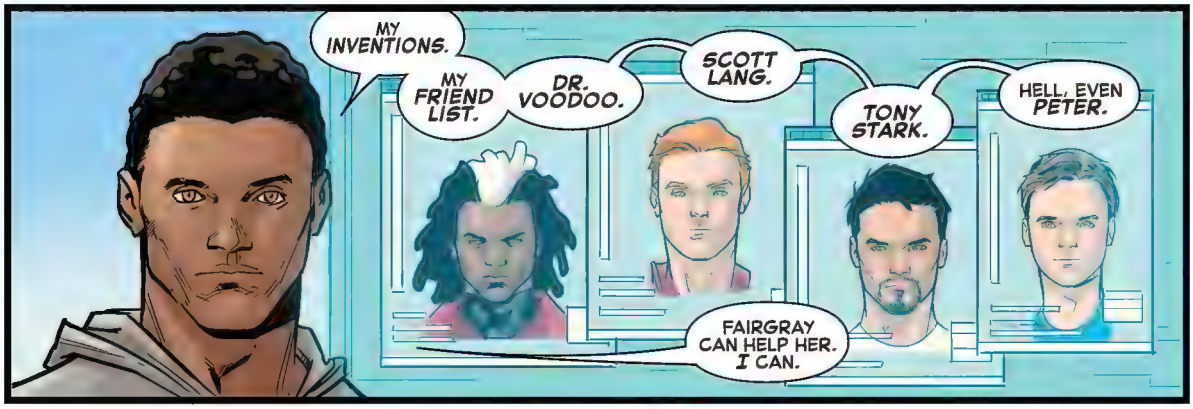
UGH!
"I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY, *WE WON*. BUT, THIS WHOLE DEAL, IT WAS KIND OF THE LAST STRAW. FOR ME.
WHMM
OH, I GET IT. YOU ALL SAW WHAT KENNETH GOT--
--AND YOU WANT SOME TOO!
"LIKE, HOW MANY END-OF-THE-WORLD THINGS HAVE WE BEEN THROUGH?
"*GALACTUS*. THOSE *SKRULL* THINGS. *MUTANTS* FIGHTING *MUTANTS* FIGHTING *INHUMANS*.
"THE FREAKING *MOLE MAN*.
WELL, COME ON THEN.

"THE HEROES FIGHT THE MONSTERS, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT THEY DO-- WHAT *WE* DO.
I GOT ENOUGH FOR *EVERYBODY!*
"WHEN WE WIN, *DAMAGE CONTROL* OR SOMEBODY COMES IN TO CLEAN UP.
"THEY GRAB UP THE LEFTOVER ALIEN TECH OR FIX A SKYSCRAPER SOME KAIJU CHEWED HOLES IN.
"THEY CLEAN UP THE *STUFF*, RIGHT?
OH, *HELL* NO.

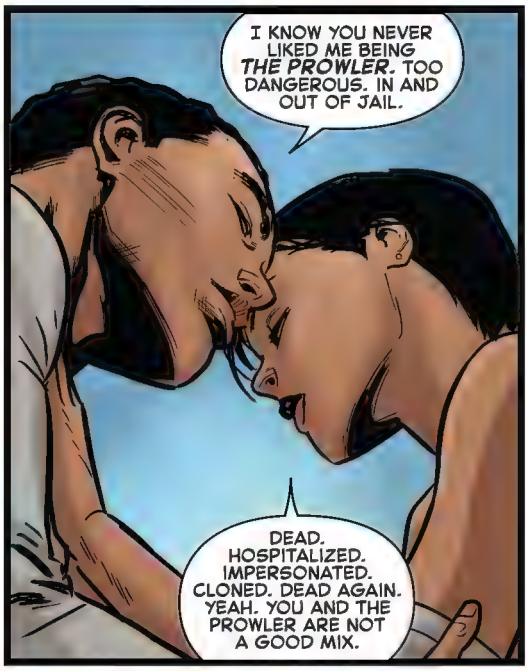
SKRFEEEEEEE!
SKRFEEEEEEE!
OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD.
"PROPERTY DAMAGE.
SLOW
"SO IT GOT ME THINKING.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
"WHAT ABOUT *THE PEOPLE?*"

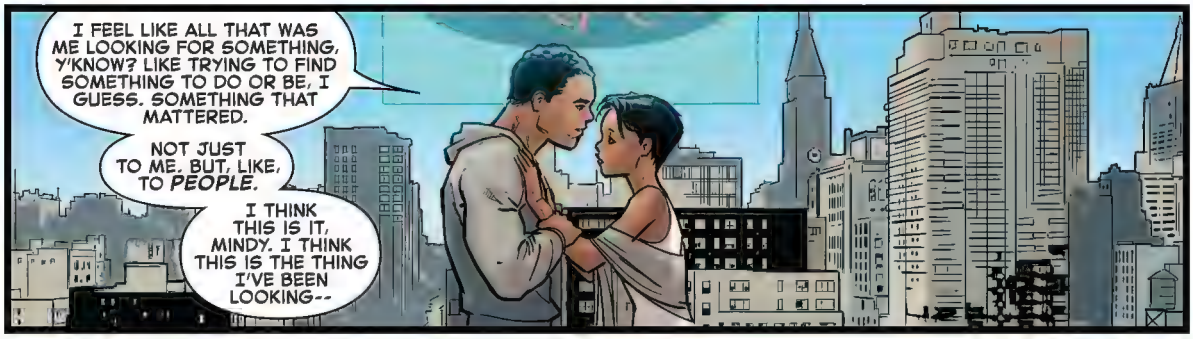
NOW.
I DON'T NEED THE WINDUP, HOBIE. JUST GIVE ME THE PITCH.
I CAN HELP THEM, MINDY. MY COMPANY CAN. FAIRGRAY.
UM, BABY?
YOU KNOW FAIRGRAY'S A CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM, RIGHT? IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY HELP PEOPLE. NOT DIRECTLY.
NO, I KNOW. THIS WOULD BE AN EXPANSION--AN *EVOLUTION.*
OKAY... *HOW?* WHAT ARE YOU ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT HERE?
I'M TALKING ABOUT *HER.*
YASMIN ADIR.
K-LIK
JUST A NORMAL KID, LIVING A NORMAL LIFE. ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, I THINK, THE AVENGERS WERE FIGHTING KANG. AGAIN.
OR, MAYBE IT WAS DR. STRANGE VERSUS SOME DEMON OR SOMETHING.

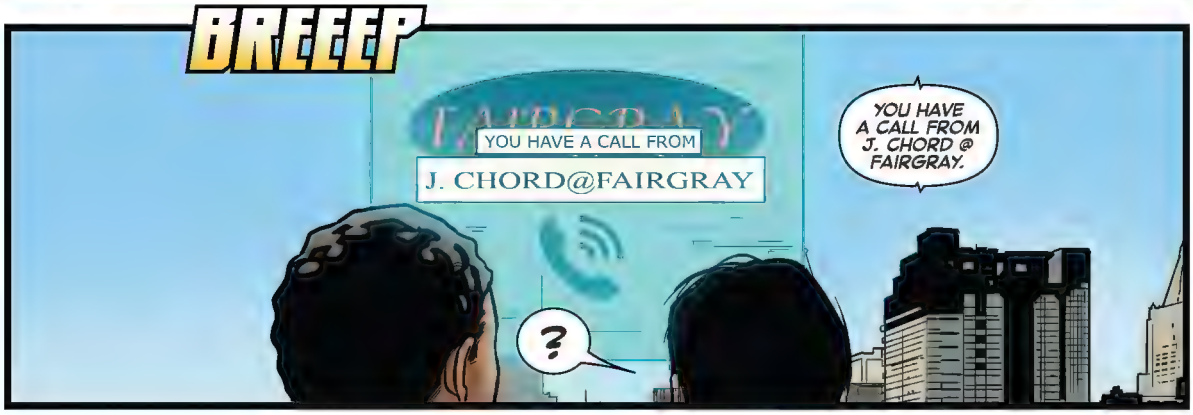
THESE GUYS COME OUT OF A RIFT, SHOOTING ZAP BEAMS EVERYWHERE.
THIS GIRL, YASMIN, GOT HIT.
SO, OKAY, YEAH, THE AVENGERS OR WHOEVER GOT RID OF THE BAD GUYS. THAT'S WHAT THEY DO.
BUT YASMIN? SHE'S SCREWED.
NOW HALF HER BODY'S SLOWLY TURNING INTO CRYSTAL.
NO CURE. NO TREATMENT. NO HELP. SHE LOSES MORE MOBILITY EVERY DAY.
FAIRGRAY
MY GOD.
SHE'S CROWDFUNDING 10K SO SHE CAN MAKE HER HOUSE MORE COMFORTABLE WHILE SHE WAITS TO DIE.
HOBIE, THAT'S... THAT'S AWFUL. BREAKS MY HEART, BUT WHAT CAN YOU ACTUALLY DO?


MY INVENTIONS.
MY FRIEND LIST.
DR. VOODOO.
SCOTT LANG.
TONY STARK.
HELL, EVEN PETER.
FAIRGRAY CAN HELP HER. I CAN.

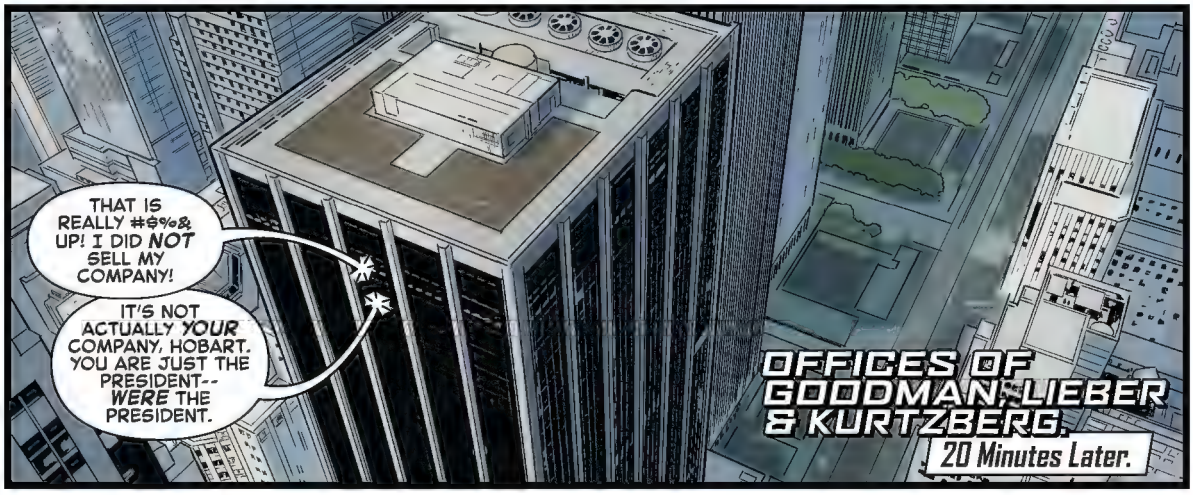
FAIRGRAY'S GOT HUNDREDS OF PAGES LIKE THIS ONE. DESTROYED TOWNS. MUTATED PEOPLE AND ANIMALS. ALIEN ENERGY POISONING.
WE CAN FIND THEM. WE CAN HELP THEM.
FAIRG

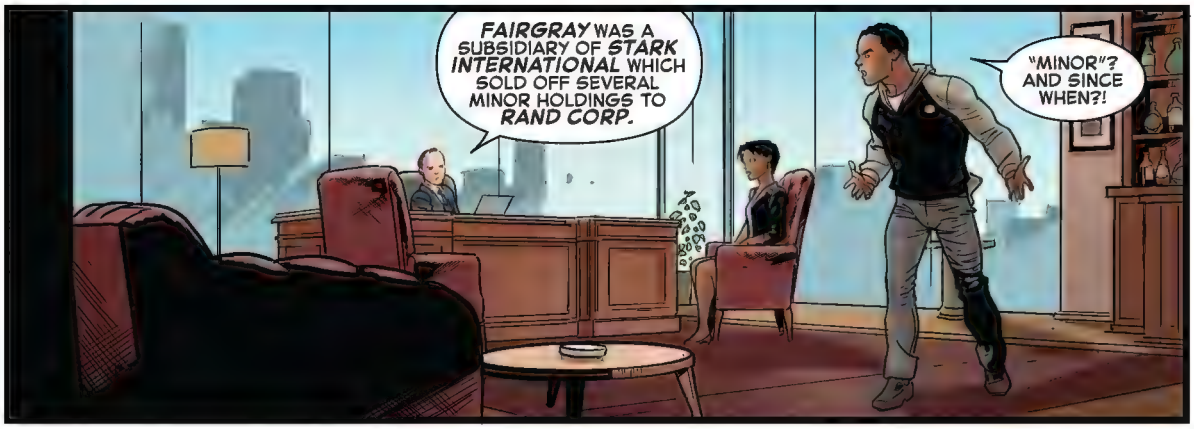

I KNOW YOU NEVER LIKED ME BEING THE PROWLER. TOO DANGEROUS. IN AND OUT OF JAIL.
DEAD. HOSPITALIZED. IMPERSONATED. CLONED. DEAD AGAIN. YEAH. YOU AND THE PROWLER ARE NOT A GOOD MIX.


I FEEL LIKE ALL THAT WAS ME LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, Y'KNOW? LIKE TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING TO DO OR BE, I GUESS. SOMETHING THAT MATTERED.
NOT JUST TO ME. BUT, LIKE, TO PEOPLE.
I THINK THIS IS IT, MINDY. I THINK THIS IS THE THING I'VE BEEN LOOKING--

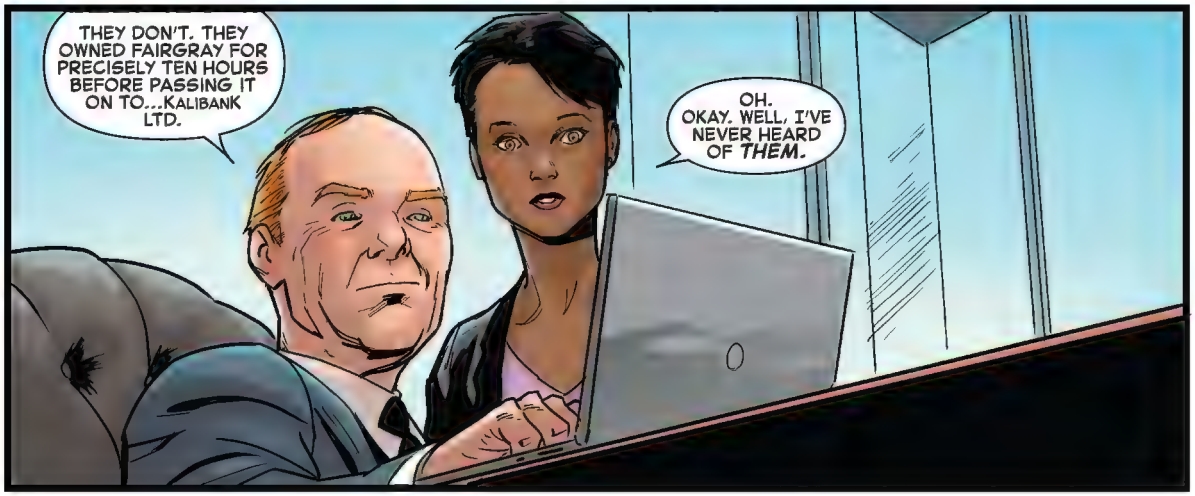

BREEEP
YOU HAVE A CALL FROM
J. CHORD@FAIRGRAY
YOU HAVE A CALL FROM J. CHORD @ FAIRGRAY.
?

HEY, JAY. WHAT'S UP?
YOU TELL ME, BOSS. WE WERE JUST HAVING OUR NORMAL DAY--WE'RE SWAPPING IN THE NEW COOLING SYSTEM FOR THE SERVER ROOM.
THEN THESE GOONS SHOW UP. THEY'VE GOT PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS AND A FREAKING DEED.
THEY KICKED US ALL OUT. NOW THEY'RE TAKING ALL THE WORK STATIONS AND SERVERS.
THEY SAY THEY OWN THE PLACE. WE'RE ALL TERMINATED.
WAIT... WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JANELLE? WHO'S THEY? THEY WHO?
THEM, BOSS. WHO DO YOU THINK?
DIVISION OF BEYOND CORPORATION
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
RODDY CONFIRMED THEIR PAPERWORK'S LEGIT.
DIVISION OF BEYOND CORPORATION
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
DID YOU REALLY SELL FAIRGRAY WITHOUT TELLING US, BOSS?
BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE REALLY #$%& UP.

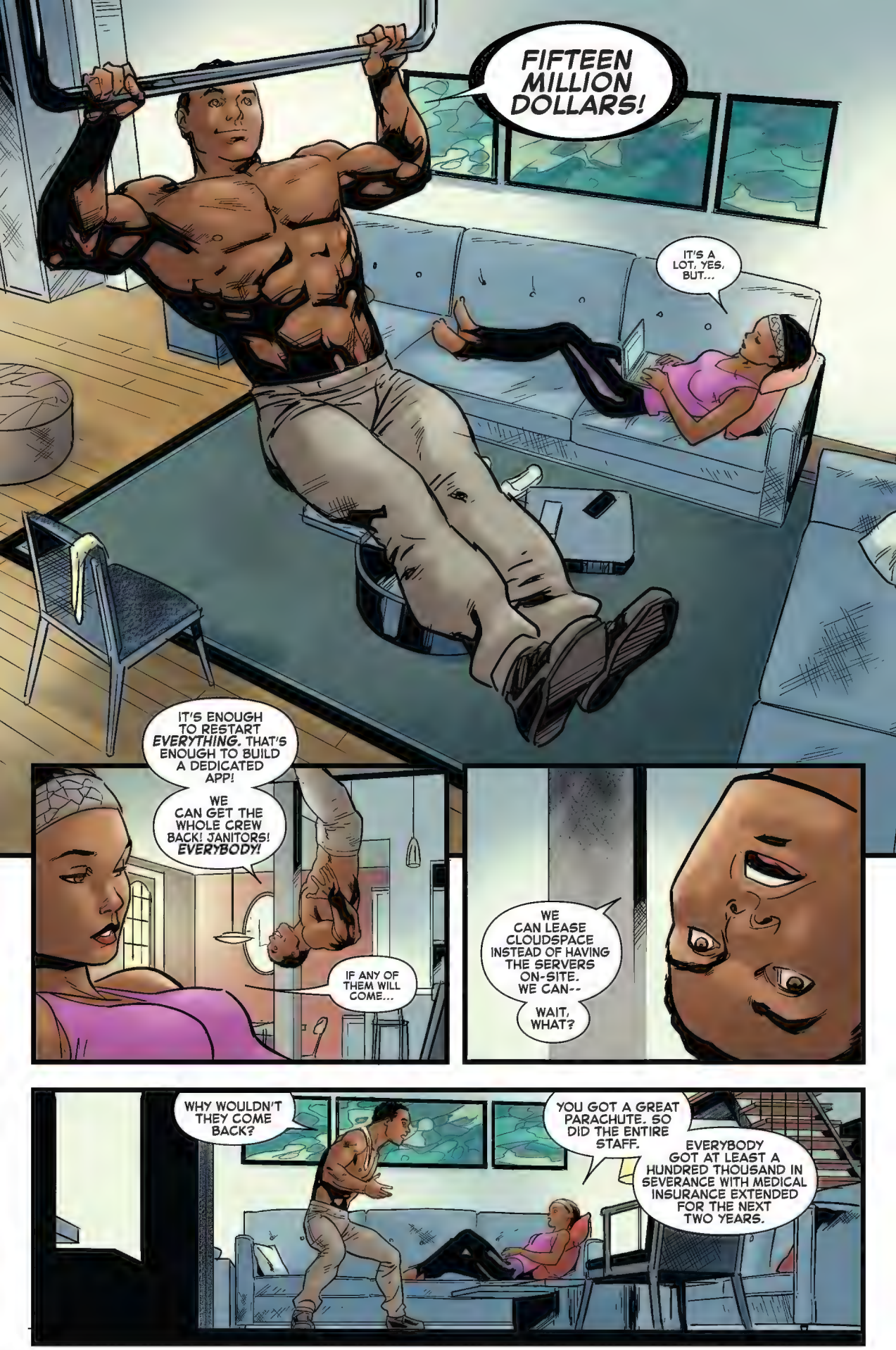

THAT IS REALLY #$%& UP! I DID NOT SELL MY COMPANY!
IT'S NOT ACTUALLY YOUR COMPANY, HOBART. YOU ARE JUST THE PRESIDENT-- WERE THE PRESIDENT.
OFFICES OF GOODMAN, LIEBER & KURTZBERG.
20 Minutes Later.


FAIRGRAY WAS A SUBSIDIARY OF STARK INTERNATIONAL WHICH SOLD OFF SEVERAL MINOR HOLDINGS TO RAND CORP.
"MINOR"? AND SINCE WHEN?!

ERM...MONDAY MORNING.
WHAT THE WHAT?
RAND CORP.'S IMPORT-EXPORT. WHY DO THEY CARE ABOUT CROWD-FUNDING?

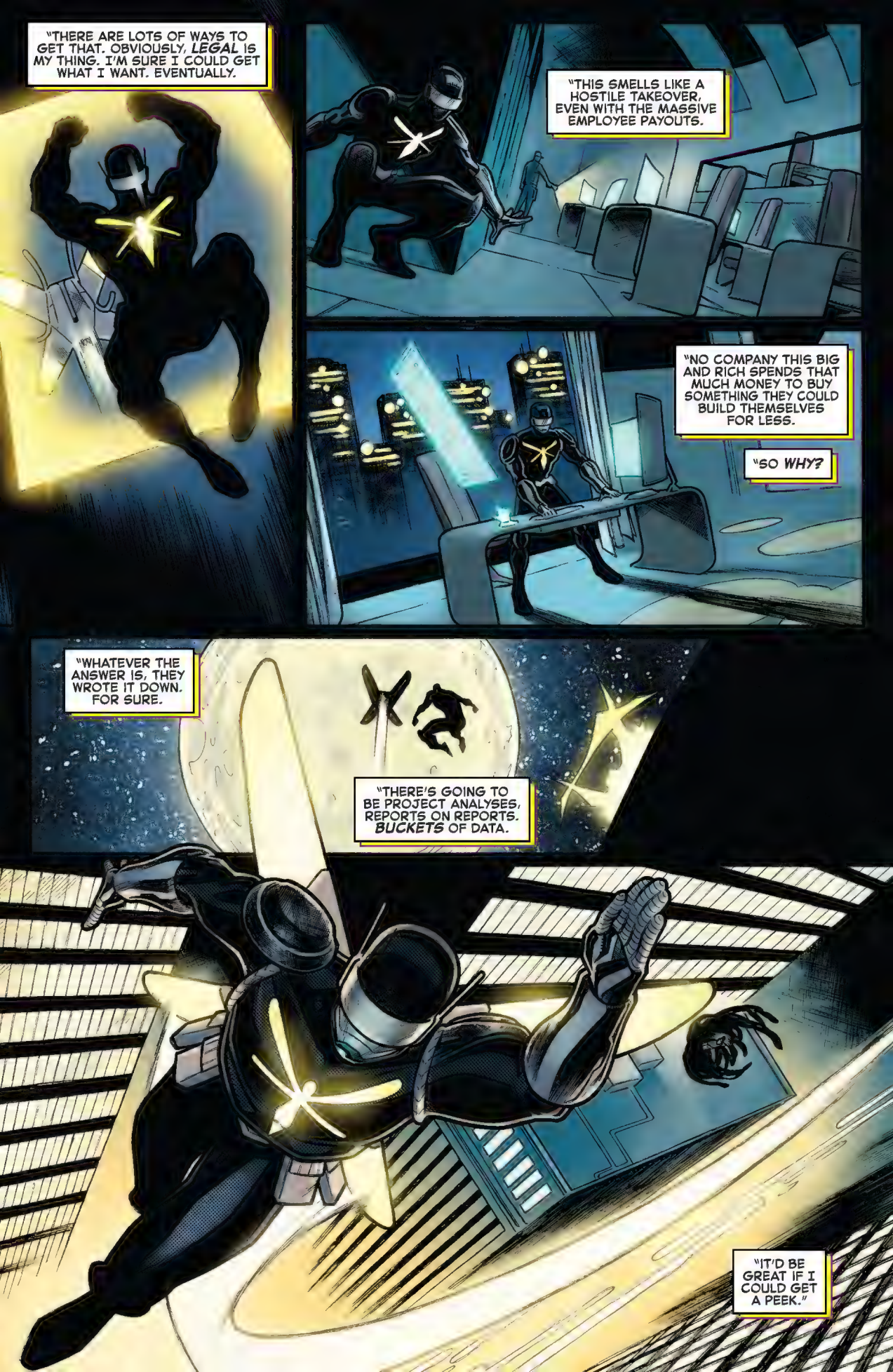

THEY DON'T. THEY OWNED FAIRGRAY FOR PRECISELY TEN HOURS BEFORE PASSING IT ON TO...KALIBANK LTD.
OH. OKAY. WELL, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM.

KALIBANK IS A HOLDING COMPANY, MANAGING SEVERAL ACQUISITIONS FOR...
YEAH. GOT IT. THE BEYOND CORPORATION.
WHAT THE H, RODDY? YOU DON'T NOTIFY ME THIS WAS HAPPENING? YOU'RE MY FREAKING LAWYER.
COUPLE OF THINGS.
ONE. I WOULD HAVE NOTIFIED YOU BUT EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST I HAD TO LET THE DUST SETTLE IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT, PRECISELY, TO TELL YOU.
TWO. GOODMAN, LIEBER & KURTZBERG REPRESENTS FAIRGRAY, NOT YOU, PERSONALLY.
THE SENIOR PARTNERS HANDLED THESE DEALS. I'M REALLY JUST YOUR LIAISON.
THREE. I ONLY TOOK THIS MEETING AS A COURTESY. BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.
THIS DEAL IS DONE, HOBART. BEYOND OWNS FAIRGRAY. YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE OUT.
I KNOW THIS IS A BLOW, BUT TAKE CONSOLATION IN THE FACT THAT YOUR EXIT PACKAGE IS...

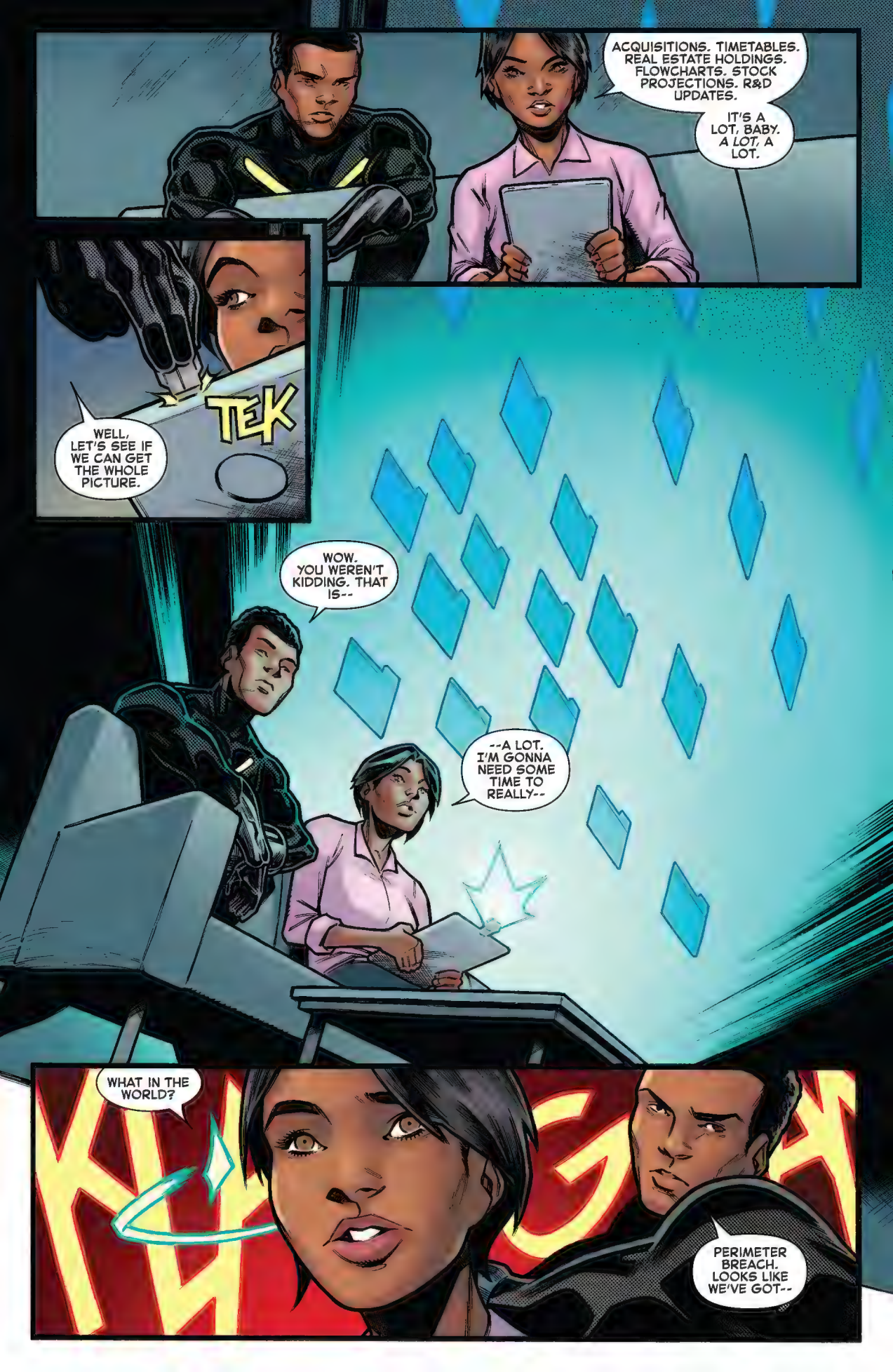

FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS!
IT'S A LOT, YES, BUT...
IT'S ENOUGH TO RESTART EVERYTHING. THAT'S ENOUGH TO BUILD A DEDICATED APP!
WE CAN GET THE WHOLE CREW BACK! JANITORS! EVERYBODY!
IF ANY OF THEM WILL COME...
WE CAN LEASE CLOUDSPACE INSTEAD OF HAVING THE SERVERS ON-SITE. WE CAN--
WAIT, WHAT?
WHY WOULDN'T THEY COME BACK?
YOU GOT A GREAT PARACHUTE. SO DID THE ENTIRE STAFF.
EVERYBODY GOT AT LEAST A HUNDRED THOUSAND IN SEVERANCE WITH MEDICAL INSURANCE EXTENDED FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

WHAT?
THAT'S OVER 30 MILLION!
45 WITH YOUR PAYOUT. ADD THAT TO THE BUY PRICE FOR THE COMPANY. WE'RE TALKING OVER 200 MILLION.
IT'S AN OVERPAY. I ASKED AROUND. FAIRGRAY'S WORTH MAYBE 70 MILLION, AT BEST. THIS IS--
200 MILLION DOLLARS?
HOBIE. BABY. CRAZYPANTS LOVE OF MY LIFE. PLEASE, FOR FIVE MINUTES, FOCUS.
I...AM FOCUSED.
WHAT AM I FOCUSED ON?
IT'S TOO MUCH.
BEYOND BOUGHT FAIRGRAY FOR ALMOST THREE TIMES ITS REAL VALUE. THEY RUSHED THE PAPERWORK AND SEIZED THE PHYSICAL ASSETS LIKE COPS DOING A DRUG RAID.
PAID OFF EVERY EMPLOYEE, INCLUDING YOU, ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FAT AND HAPPY.
SO I'VE ONLY GOT ONE QUESTION.

"WHY?
"THIS IS A GIANT, HYPER-SUCCESSFUL CORPORATION. THEY HAVE A COMPANY FOR EVERYTHING. THEY HAVE FINGERS IN EVERYTHING.
"WHY DO THEY EVEN WANT FAIRGRAY?
"WHY NOT JUST BUILD THEIR OWN CROWDFUNDER?
"WHY DO THEY WANT *YOUR* SERVERS?
"IF THIS WAS PART OF A LAWSUIT, I'D BE SUBPOENAING THEIR RELATED FILES AS PART OF DISCOVERY.
"NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE THINK, CORPORATIONS WRITE DOWN *EVERYTHING.*
"EVERYTHING YOU WANT, EVERY BIT OF INFO ABOUT ANY SCHEME, IT'S IN SOMEBODY'S FILE, IN SOMEBODY'S ARCHIVE.
"YOU JUST NEED ACCESS.


"THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET THAT. OBVIOUSLY, *LEGAL* IS MY THING. I'M SURE I COULD GET WHAT I WANT. EVENTUALLY.
"THIS SMELLS LIKE A HOSTILE TAKEOVER, EVEN WITH THE MASSIVE EMPLOYEE PAYOUTS.
"NO COMPANY THIS BIG AND RICH SPENDS THAT MUCH MONEY TO BUY SOMETHING THEY COULD BUILD THEMSELVES FOR LESS.
"SO *WHY?*
"WHATEVER THE ANSWER IS, THEY WROTE IT DOWN. FOR SURE.
"THERE'S GOING TO BE PROJECT ANALYSES, REPORTS ON REPORTS. *BUCKETS* OF DATA.
"IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD GET A PEEK."

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT.
WHAT? YOU ASKED ME TO--
I DID NOT. I SAID IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE THE RECORDS.
AT NO TIME DID I REQUEST, DIRECT, OR IMPLY THAT YOU SHOULD ILLEGALLY OBTAIN THOSE RECORDS FOR ME.
OKAY, COUNSELOR. MY BAD. I JUMPED THE GUN.
HUGE SHOCK THERE.
BUT, OKAY, SO, YOU'VE GOT THEM NOW. ANYTHING GOOD IN THERE?
I MEAN... EVERYTHING? YOU GOT EVERYTHING, HOBIE.


ACQUISITIONS. TIMETABLES. REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS. FLOWCHARTS. STOCK PROJECTIONS. R&D UPDATES.
IT'S A LOT, BABY. A LOT, A LOT.
TEK
WELL, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THE WHOLE PICTURE.
WOW. YOU WEREN'T KIDDING. THAT IS--
--A LOT. I'M GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO REALLY--
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
PERIMETER BREACH. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT--

"--AN INTRUDER ON THE ROOF."
LET GO! GET ME *OUT OF* THIS! *STOP* IT!
LET ME *GO!* WHAT EVEN *IS* IT? IT STINGS LIKE NEEDLES!
IT'S A TELEPORT BLOCKER, MISS ST. COMMONS.
IT'S PROBABLY IRONIC BUT I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF *PROWLERS.*
YOU'RE THE *THIEF!* I SAW YOU AT *BEYOND!* YOU'RE EVEN WEARING *MY BEST FRIEND'S* COSTUME!*
*THE ORIGINAL HORNET WAS KILLED BY WOLVERINE BACK IN **WOLVERINE: ENEMY OF THE STATE!** --DK
...WAIT... HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
FIRST, THE COSTUME'S MINE. I DESIGNED IT.
AS FOR YOUR NAME, I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO YOU AND YOUR CREW.
SO. WANNA TELL ME WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO 'PORT INTO MY PLACE...
...OR AM I CALLING THE COPS?
...
I PREFER NO COPS, PLEASE.

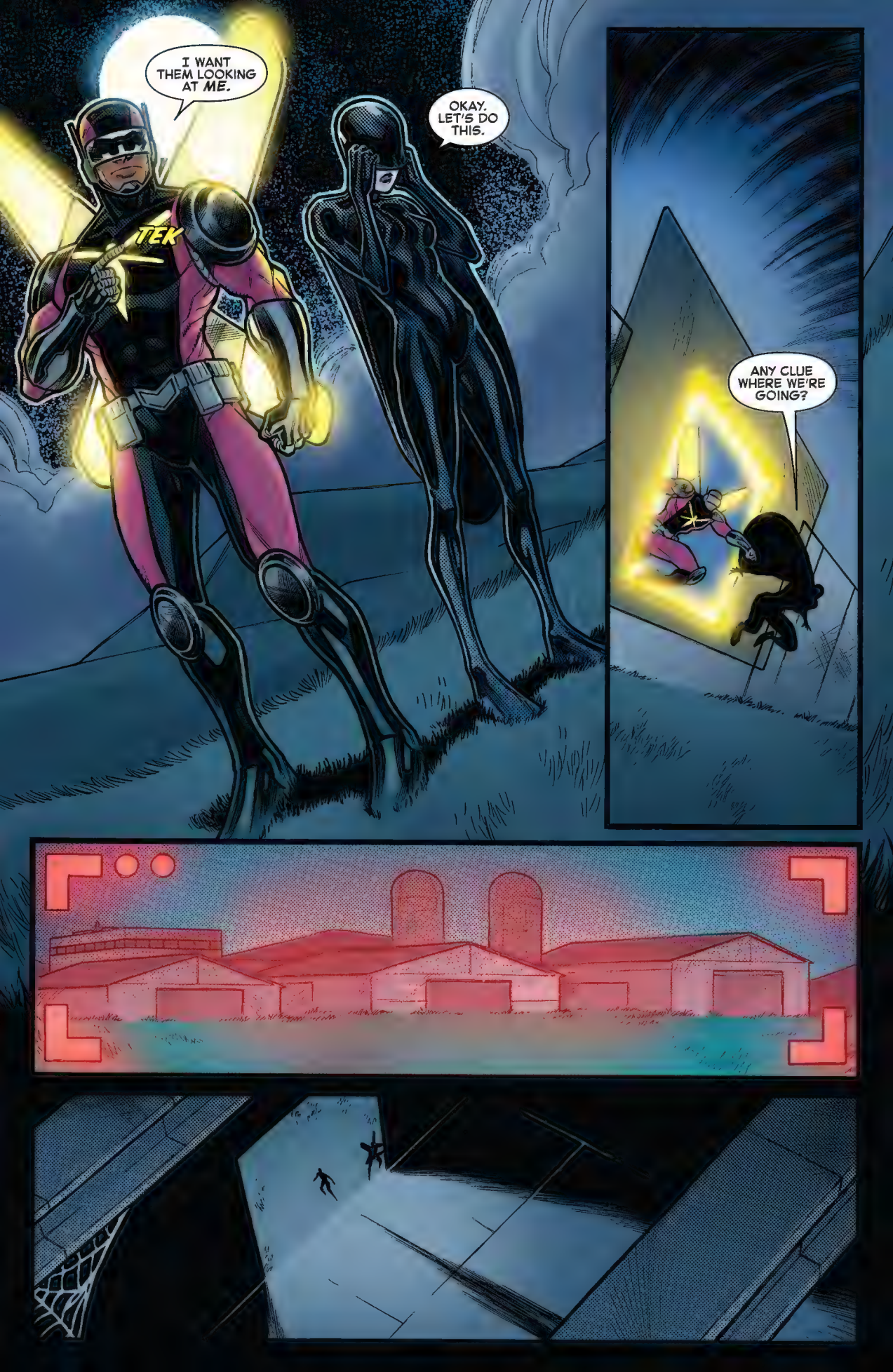
WHOA!
YEAH, SO, YOU WERE AT BEYOND AND YOU FOLLOWED ME. WHY?
TEK
I DUNNO. I GET... FLASHES. I'M, LIKE, CONNECTED TO SOME PEOPLE AND I GET PREMONITIONS.
SOMETIMES LITTLE ONES.
PRECOG. OKAY. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "CONNECTED"?
I USED TO RUN WITH THESE GUYS... RICH. ED. JOHNNY. WE GOT INTO SOME STUFF. IT WAS KIND OF A MESS.
WE STOPPED HANGING OUT. I--I'VE GOT THESE POWERS. I GOT... TANGLED...IN THEIR HEADS. NOT FUN, Y'KNOW?
YOU'RE TAKING INHIBITREX FOR THE PSI STUFF? HOW'S IT WORKING?
OKAY, I GUESS. NOT GREAT. I STILL GET FLASHES. NOT SO MANY ANYMORE, BUT STILL.
I GOT ONE FROM JOHNNY. SOME GUYS GRABBING HIM. THE BEYOND BUILDING. THEIR LOGO.
HE'S IN TROUBLE. HE NEEDS HELP.
YOU DIDN'T CONTACT HIS FAMILY? WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE?
I DON'T KNOW HIS PEOPLE. ME AND COPS DON'T MIX SO WELL.
SO YOU WENT AT IT SOLO?

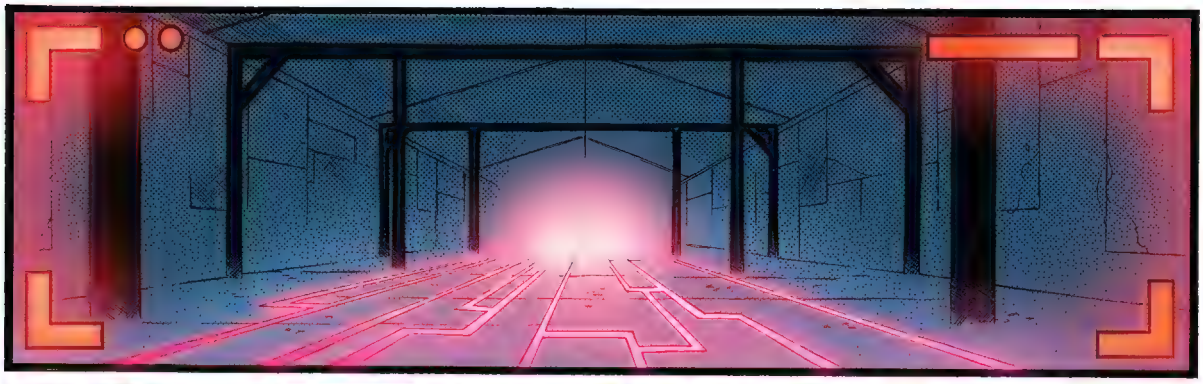
I WOULD HAVE. I WANTED TO. BUT, BEYOND, IT'S SHIELDED. EVEN BETTER THAN YOUR PLACE. I COULDN'T GET IN.
THEN I SAW YOU DO IT. IN AND OUT--EASY. FIGURED MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME.
HELP YOU WHAT?
BEYOND'S GOT HIM. I KNOW IT. I CAN FEEL IT. IF YOU CAN GET ME IN THERE, I CAN--
WHOA... HEY. WE THINK THIS COMPANY'S SHADY TOO, BUT KIDNAPPING?
IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT, YOU NEED TO GO TO SOMEONE FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. OR THE FBI.
THEY'VE GOT HIM. THEY'RE HURTING HIM. I TOLD YOU. I KNOW IT-- I CAN FEEL IT.
THAT'S NOT EVIDENCE, CASSIE. NO D.A. IS GOING TO--
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME? I KNOW I'VE GOT NO EVIDENCE. MY POWERS ARE... NO WAY THEY LISTEN TO ME.
ALL I'VE GOT IS MY FLASHES AND TWO WORDS.
"KROATAN FARM."
WHAT?
JUST A SECOND...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST A SECOND, I SAID.
I THINK YOU NEED TO STEP BACK FROM THIS, CASSIE. BEYOND IS NOTHING TO FOOL WITH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP ME. BUT I'M GOING TO FIND JOHNNY. I'M ALL HE'S--
YO! YOU TWO, GET DOWN HERE!

WHAT, HOBIE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
JUST GET IN HERE. I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING.
WHAT THE HELL?
HE'S SHOWING OFF. DON'T FALL FOR IT.
HOBIE, WHAT?
GOT A GLANCE AT THE DOCS BEFORE THE ALARM WENT OFF.
IT'S IN THE SPECIAL PROJECTS FILE. KROATAN FARM.
THE ADDRESS IS NEAR KING'S CROSSING, NEW YORK.
AND YOU GOT THIS JUST OFF A GLANCE?
PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY, BABY. HELPS WITH THE INVENTING.
YOU DO NOT HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY.
DAIRY FARM. BEEN DEFUNCT SINCE SOME INCIDENT WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR. BEYOND PICKED IT UP CHEAP SIX MONTHS AGO.
OKAY. SO?
SO YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO GET THROUGH ALL THIS.
SO ALL THREE OF US THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SHADY GOING ON WITH BEYOND.
SO WHY DON'T YOU GET TO WORK ON THESE DOCS WHILE ME AND CASSIE, Y'KNOW...

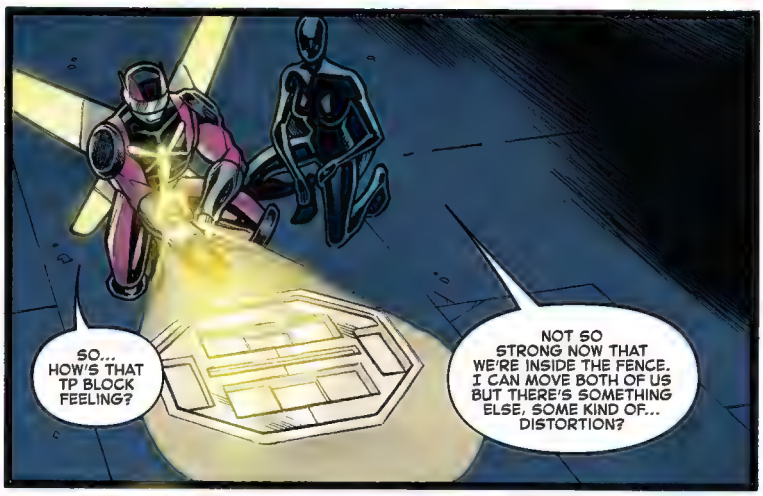
"...GO TAKE A PEEK?"
TWENTY-FIVE MILES NORTH WEST OF YOU, CASSIE. YOU NEED THE GEOTAG?
NOPE. I'M GOOD.
HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK
Two Hours Later.
YOU GET A LOOK AT KING'S CROSSING?
EMPTY. THERE'S A COUPLE OF LIGHTS ON BUT, YEAH, IT'S YOUR BASIC GHOST TOWN.
SAME HERE. NOTHING STIRRING. NOBODY'S BEEN HERE FOR MONTHS, AT LEAST.
I KNOW JOHNNY'S HERE. I CAN FEEL IT. IT'S JUST--
SOMETHING'S BLOCKING YOU, RIGHT?
...YEAH... SOMETHING...

YEAH. THIS IS SOME BULL#$%&.
THIS FARM'S JUST AN EMPTY HUSK. BUT THERE'S A CLASS FOUR FORCE-FIELD AROUND IT?
PLUS, THE TP BLOCK AND YOUR PSI CONNECTION'S SCRAMBLED.
"MOVE ALONG, FOLKS. NOTHING TO SEE HERE." SEE WHAT I MEAN?
BEYOND PUT IN A LOT OF WORK TO MAKE THIS PLACE LOOK LIKE NOTHING.
JOHNNY'S *HERE*, HOBIE. SOMEWHERE. I CAN FEEL HIM.
WE'RE GOING IN. PULL UP YOUR MASK.
WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THERE, I DON'T WANT ANYBODY LOOKING AT YOU.


I WANT THEM LOOKING AT ME.
TEK
OKAY. LET'S DO THIS.
ANY CLUE WHERE WE'RE GOING?

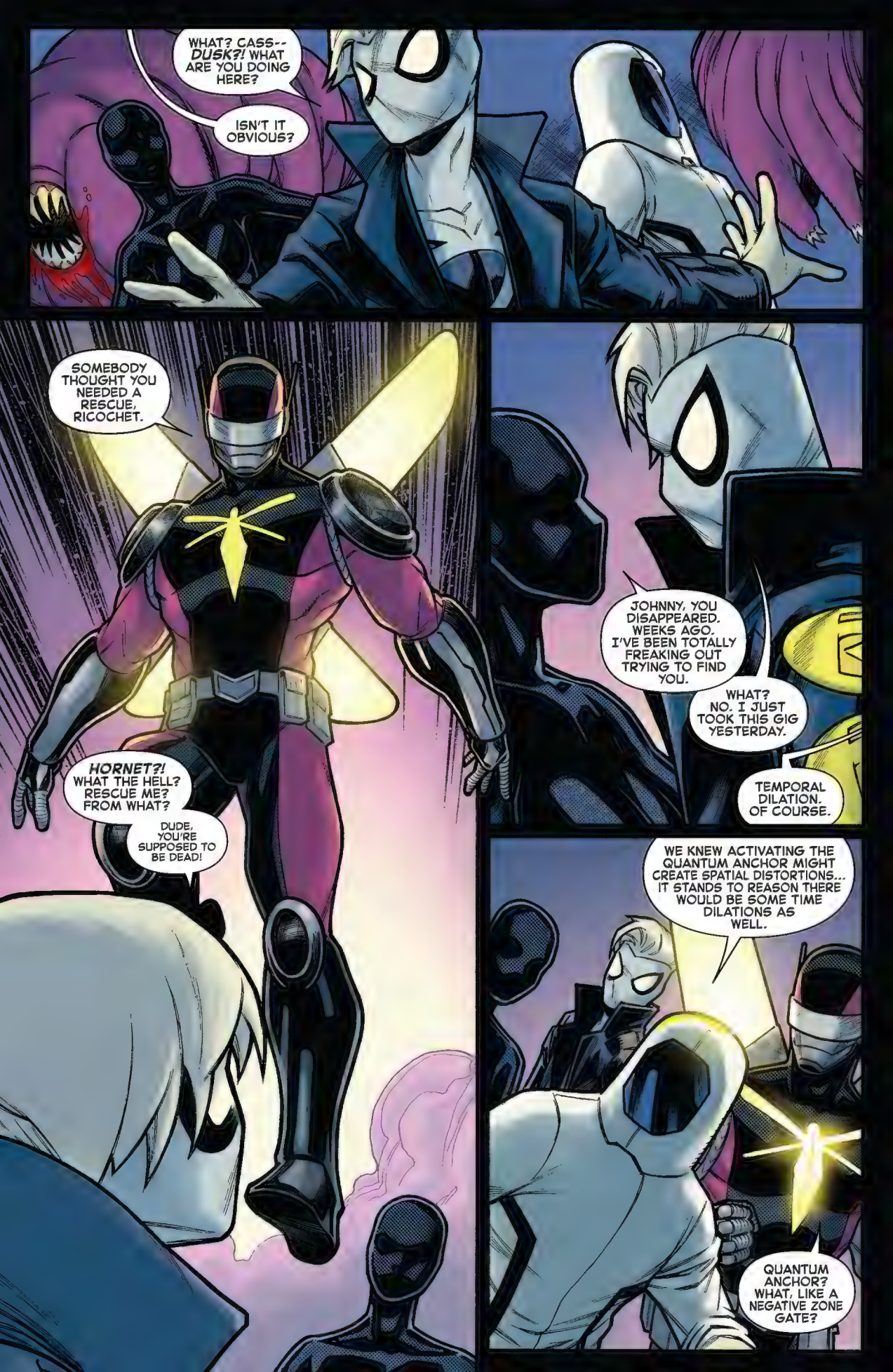


MY PULSE MAP SHOWS AN OPEN SPACE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YARDS DOWN. BIG ENERGY SOURCE TOO. BET THAT'S THE POWER CENTER.
JOHNNY'S DEFINITELY DOWN THERE.


SO... HOW'S THAT TP BLOCK FEELING?
NOT SO STRONG NOW THAT WE'RE INSIDE THE FENCE. I CAN MOVE BOTH OF US BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, SOME KIND OF... DISTORTION?

IS THAT A DEAL BREAKER? YOU'RE THE WHOLE GETAWAY IF THINGS GO LEFT.
HEY, WE GOT THIS FAR, RIGHT? WHAT'S--

--THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
ROAR
HOLY #@%&!
OPERATOR FOUR! GET DOWN!
ROARR
OPERATOR SIX! TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD!
NO PROGRESS!
THE EFFECT IS STILL EXPANDING! WE HAVE TO SHUT THE ANCHOR DOWN!
YEAH, I KNOW THAT! HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO--?
JOHNNY? IS THAT REALLY YOU?


WHAT? CASS-- DUSK?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
SOMEBODY THOUGHT YOU NEEDED A RESCUE, RICOCHET.
HORNET?! WHAT THE HELL? RESCUE ME? FROM WHAT?
DUDE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!
JOHNNY, YOU DISAPPEARED. WEEKS AGO. I'VE BEEN TOTALLY FREAKING OUT TRYING TO FIND YOU.
WHAT? NO. I JUST TOOK THIS GIG YESTERDAY.
TEMPORAL DILATION. OF COURSE.
WE KNEW ACTIVATING THE QUANTUM ANCHOR MIGHT CREATE SPATIAL DISTORTIONS... IT STANDS TO REASON THERE WOULD BE SOME TIME DILATIONS AS WELL.
QUANTUM ANCHOR? WHAT, LIKE A NEGATIVE ZONE GATE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU USE THE RICHARDS CONFIGURATION MATRIX OR THE PYM-FOSTER?
PYM-FOSTER WITH THE KRAGOFF-SANTINI STRUCTURE.
NICE. SOMETHING SCRAMBLED YOUR AUTO-SHUTDOWN, RIGHT?
DUSK... WHO IS THIS GUY?
YOU DON'T LISTEN. I'M THE RESCUE. DUSK SAID YOU'RE A MUTANT, RIGHT? KINETIC TRANSITION POWERSET?
IF THAT MEANS I BOUNCE AROUND REALLY FAST, YEAH. BEEN SAVING FOLKS SINCE ALL THIS CRAZINESS POPPED OFF.
BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE THE ANGLES WORK TO GET TO THE ANCHOR, RIGHT? BALLISTIC TRAJECTORIES WON'T GET YOU THROUGH THE SPACE FOLDS.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN?
HITTING THE OFF SWITCH.
DUSK. I'M GOING TO STABILIZE A PATH THROUGH THE FOLDS. I NEED YOU TO OPEN A TP GATE TO THAT THING OVER THERE. JUST A LITTLE ONE.
I CAN DO THAT.
TEK TEP TOK TOK
HUMMMMMMMMMM

OKAY, THEN. GO!
JOHNNY! I NEED YOU TO REACH THROUGH AND HIT THE SHUTDOWN SWITCH! HURRY! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS UP!
HUMMMMMMM
WHO ARE YOU, MAN? SERIOUSLY!
JUST DO IT, JOHNNY! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
... FINE.
BUT ME AND NEW GUY ARE GONNA HAVE A TALK ABOUT HIM WEARING EDDIE'S SUIT.
THIS BETTER WORK, MAN.
SMAK!

THEY'RE GONE.
LOOKS LIKE A WIN TO ME.
WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED.
WE DID IT! OMIGOD! WE DID IT! WE SAVED YOU!
I TOLD YOU, I JUST GOT A JOB. I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR BEYOND IN THEIR HERO DIVISION.
GLAD TO SEE YOU THOUGH.
EXCELLENT WORK MR....*HORNET*, WAS IT?
YEAH. THAT'S ME.
WELL, YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE THE BRAINS AND THE--*AH*--PHYSICALITY TO BE A TOP-SHELF MEMBER OF MY TEAM.
MR. HORNET, I AM OFFICIALLY OFFERING YOU A JOB.
CALL ME IN THE MORNING. WE NEED TO TALK.
tel: 554
990 BEYOND
Operator 6
Dr. Eliot Swensen
THE END?

#89 VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON & MARTE GRACIA

FSSSH
RRRGH!
BEYOND. MANHATTAN FACILITY.
A THERAPIST'S JOB IS TO GUIDE OUR PATIENTS.
GREEN GOBLIN ASSETS SYNCHRONIZING WITH BEYOND DATABASE.
AAAAARH!
YEAH, PAIN HURTS.
NOW I KNOW... WHAT THEY KNOW.
I SEE MY HIGHER CALLING.
LOWER GLIDER.
I HEAR THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.
MY STRENGTH WILL RULE IN PLACE OF THEIR WEAKNESS.
SHRAK
NO! YOU CAN'T--
I CAN.
SPLUTCH
WAIT-- HOW'D SHE GET HER MACE?!
SCEPTER.
GURRRGLE
YES. CHANGE CAN BE PAINFUL...

MY QUEEN.

...BUT THIS IS WHERE THE *HEALING* BEGINS.

MADNESS IS CLARITY.

HA HA HA HA HA!

McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.
GREAT P.T. WORKOUT TONIGHT, PETER.
JUST DOING THE WORK, NURSE LOIS.
DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T NOTICED YOUR PROGRESS--OR THOSE EXTRA BAND-AIDS.
YOU GOT A SIDE-NURSE GIVING YOU AFTER-HOURS P.T.?
I ONLY MAKE TIME FOR YOU.
AND DOCTORS AMERICA AND BLACK CAT FROM TEN TO ONE A.M., MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS.
WELL, WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, KEEP IT UP. HARD WORK LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, PETER BENJAMIN PARKER.
WAIT, ARE YOU ACTUALLY... PROUD OF ME?
DON'T PUSH IT. REST UP, AND I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW AFTER BREAKFAST. GOOD NIGHT.
DON'T PUSH IT, SHE SAYS.
THAT'S ALL I DO THESE DAYS.
I COULD USE THE SHUT-EYE, BUT PULLING DOUBLE P.T. ISN'T ABOUT TAKING IT EASY--IT'S ABOUT BEING READY.
FAWUMP
OW!
THERE'S MY CUE.

THE MIND IS STRONG, BUT THE BODY IS WEAK, SPIDER-HOPPER.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING TO USE THAT LINE?
WHAT? NOT QUIPPY ENOUGH?
YOU'RE EARLY.
BROUGHT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY JUNK TO DOCUMENT TRAINING. CAP THOUGHT IT COULD STAND IN FOR HIM.
HE'S NOT COMING?
THAT WOULD BE WORTH DOCUMENTING.
AVENGING SOMETHING OFF-WORLD. I CAN QUIP IN SUPER-SOLDIER IF IT HELPS.
BREAKING NEWS TONIGHT...
...A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS HAVE ROCKED THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE DAILY BUGLE.
REPORTS OF A GOBLIN ON A GLIDER BEING RESPONSIBLE HAVE COME IN. RESCUE CREWS ARE--
A GOBLIN?!
TRAINING JUST GOT UPGRADED TO REAL-WORLD DRILLS.
THAT'S SPIDEY-HUMOR, RIGHT?
I'M READY. LET'S GO.
PETER, STOP. LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE THIS ONE.
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY MY STYLE, CAT.

THIS ISN'T STYLE-- IT'S HALF-COCKED.
REMEMBER HOW FAR OUR LITTLE PARKING GARAGE PLAYDATE SET BACK YOUR RECOVERY?
IN ASM #83. —NL
I'M TIRED OF LYING AROUND HERE LETTING YOU, BEN, AND EVERYONE ELSE DO MY JOB.
YOUR JOB? DON'T BE STUPID. WHAT ABOUT OURS?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
LOOK, I'LL TELL YOU LIKE I TOLD MJ--YOU'LL JUST SLOW ME DOWN.
YEAH? HOW DID THAT WORK OUT?
IN MJBC: BEYOND #1. —NL
FINE, SMART GUY. YOU THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THIS?
MY WEB-SHOOTER?
THUNK
YOU WANT IT?
COME AND GET IT!
THWIP

ARE YOU SERIOUS RIGHT NOW?! THE NURSES WILL--
WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL DISSOLVE BEFORE THE MORNING NURSE CHECKS ON YOU.
BUT IF YOU ARE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IT, YOUR WEB-SHOOTERS ARE WAITING HERE ON THE NIGHTSTAND.
ENJOY THE SHOW ON THE NEWS OR MEET ME AT THE BUGLE...
...IF YOU CAN!
HA HA HA HA HA!

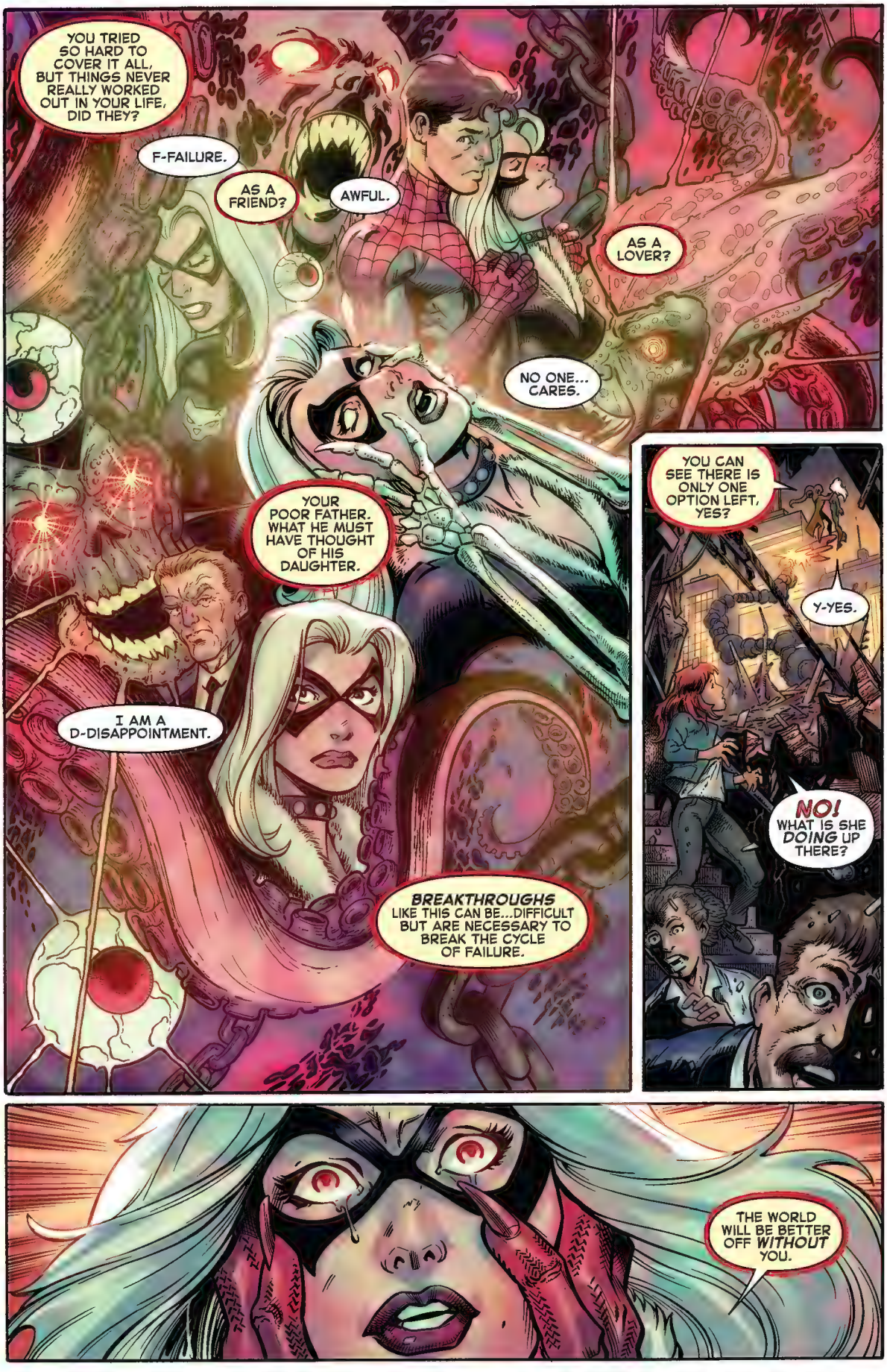
THE DAILY BUGLE.
LOOK OUT! SHE'S COMING AROUND AGAIN!
GET US CLEAR!
SOMEBODY! HELP!
ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE!
AH, THE NOT-SO-FAMOUS MARY JANE WATSON.
I WAS WRAPPING UP HERE, BUT I CAN ALWAYS MAKE TIME FOR A LITTLE CELEBRITY FREELANCING!
HOW COULD I NOT BE INTRIGUED BY THE MIND OF A FAILED ACTOR, NIGHTCLUB PROPRIETOR, AND STARK EMPLOYEE? WE HAVE A LOT TO WORK THROUGH.
I HAVE NEW AND IMPROVED THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS AS WELL.
WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE MY GOBLIN GAZE?
I SHOULD WARN YOU-- IT CAN BE...

...INTENSE.
I--I DON'T--
HELP!
GIVING UP SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS? HOW GRACIOUS OF YOU!
WAIT!
PLEASE.. I'M SLIPPING!
C-CAN'T HOLD ON!
PLEASE, I--I DON'T WANT TO FALL!
WE WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN, WALTER JAMES WILCOX. ADMITTING YOU HAVE A PROBLEM TRULY IS THE FIRST STEP...
AAAAGHH!
...TO FREEDOM!
WHO'S NEXT?

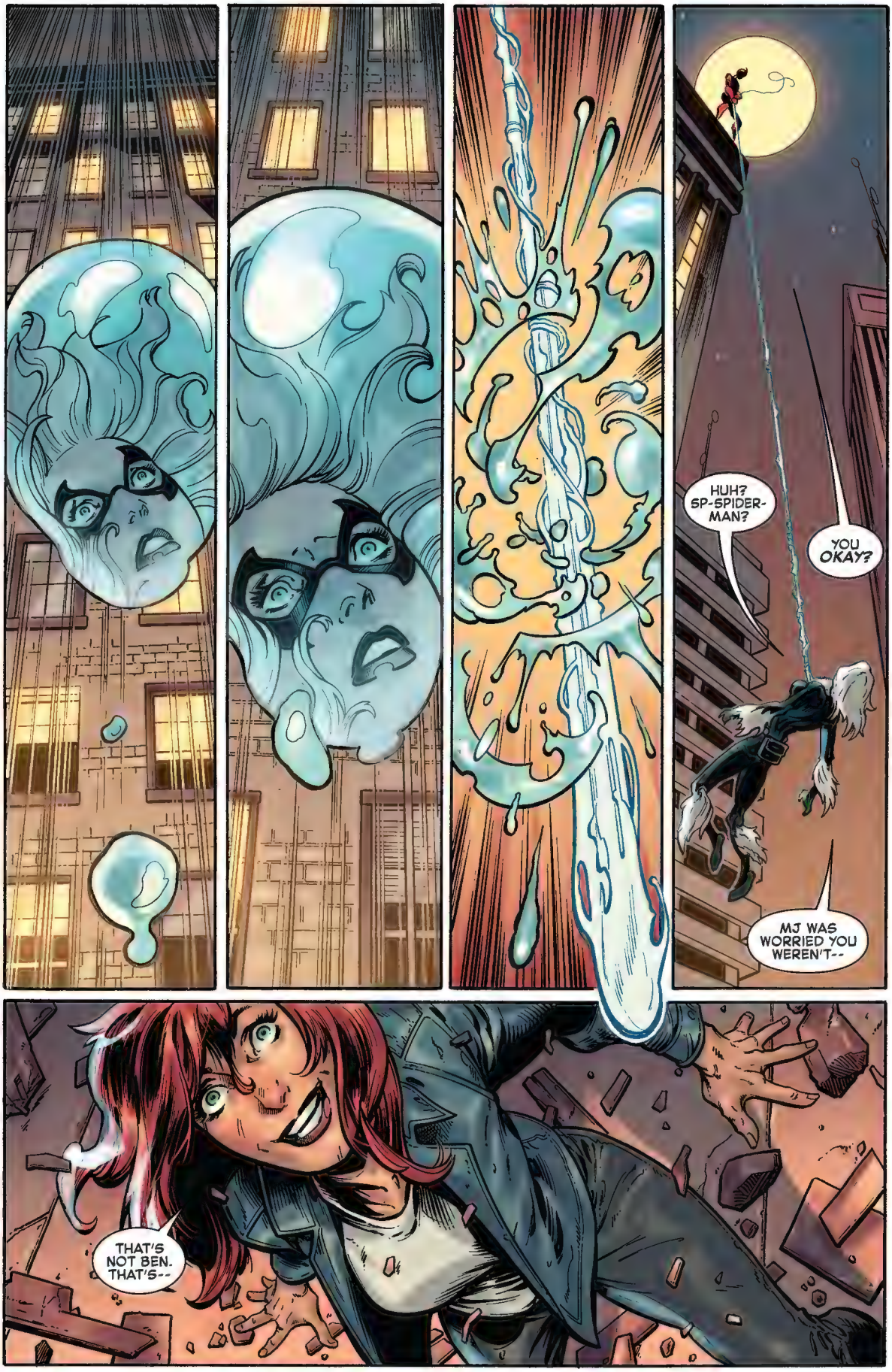
JUST STOP IT!
FWAK
FEH!
YOU DARE RAISE A HAND...
...AGAINST YOUR QUEEN?!
RAISE A HAND?

HOW ABOUT I DROP A FOOT RIGHT IN YOUR FANGS, PRINCESS?
SWAK
GRRRK!
BLACK CAT!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, RED?
I WAS HELPING BEN'S GIRLFRIEND BLOW THE WHISTLE ON BEYOND. THEN THAT GOBLIN SHOWED UP AND DESTROYED THE EVIDENCE ALONG WITH HALF THE BUILDING!
WHERE IS THIS WHISTLEBLOWER NOW?
BEN SHOWED UP AND RESCUED JANINE, BUT THEN HE... JUST LEFT US.
DON'T WORRY, BEN'S COMING BACK. I'M SURE OF IT, ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T--
OF COURSE HE IS. HE'S SPIDER-MAN!
GET THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THE STAIRS, I'LL DEAL WITH OUR ROYAL PAIN.
OKAY, BE CAREFUL.
WHERE DID THAT WITCH--?
INTERESTING MONIKER.
DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ONCE BELIEVED THAT WITCHES KEPT SHAPE-SHIFTING BLACK CATS AS SPIES?
PEOPLE COULD NOT SEE THE CREATURE FOR WHAT IT TRULY WAS SO LONG AS IT WAS DISGUISED AS SUCH.
FWUM
UTT--
YOU NO LONGER NEED TO HIDE WHAT YOU TRULY ARE...

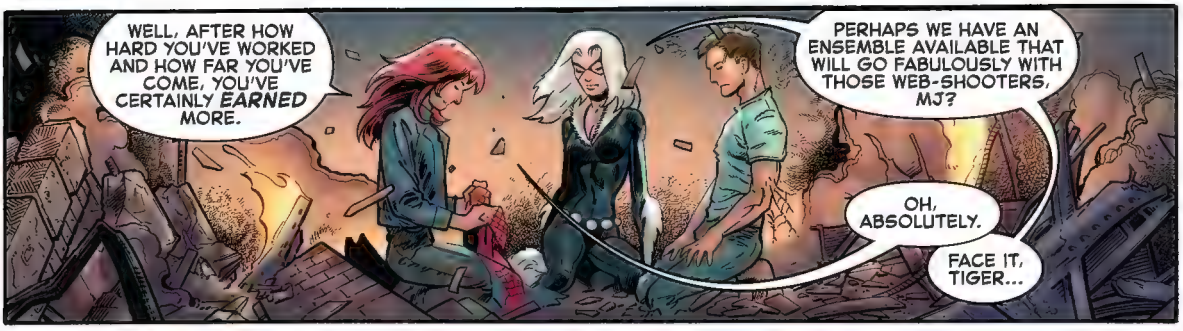
...DAMAGED GOODS.
NOW LET GOBLINS GAZE.
FWASH

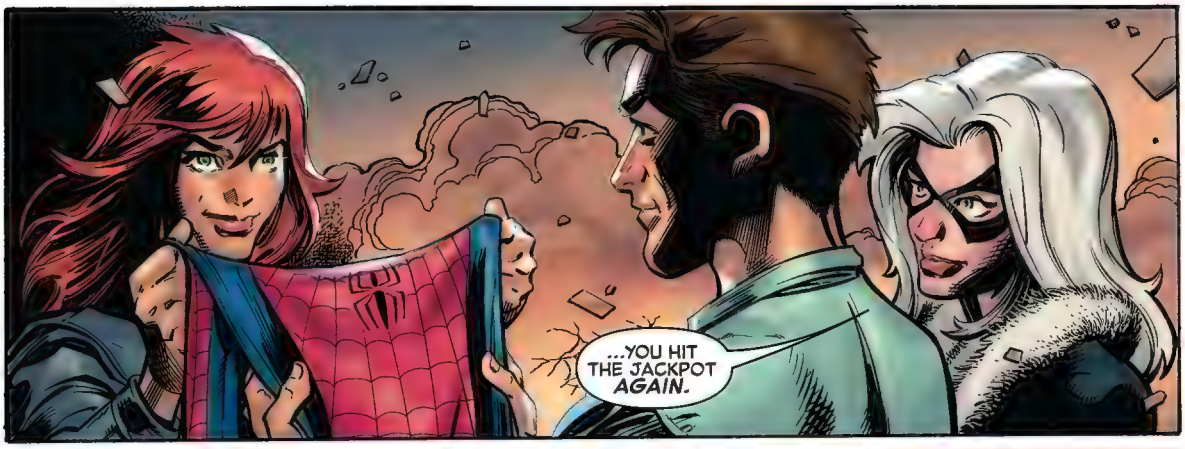

YOU TRIED SO HARD TO COVER IT ALL, BUT THINGS NEVER REALLY WORKED OUT IN YOUR LIFE, DID THEY?
F-FAILURE.
AS A FRIEND?
AWFUL.
AS A LOVER?
NO ONE... CARES.
YOUR POOR FATHER. WHAT HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT OF HIS DAUGHTER.
I AM A D-DISAPPOINTMENT.
BREAKTHROUGHS LIKE THIS CAN BE...DIFFICULT BUT ARE NECESSARY TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF FAILURE.
YOU CAN SEE THERE IS ONLY ONE OPTION LEFT, YES?
Y-YES.
NO! WHAT IS SHE DOING UP THERE?
THE WORLD WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU.

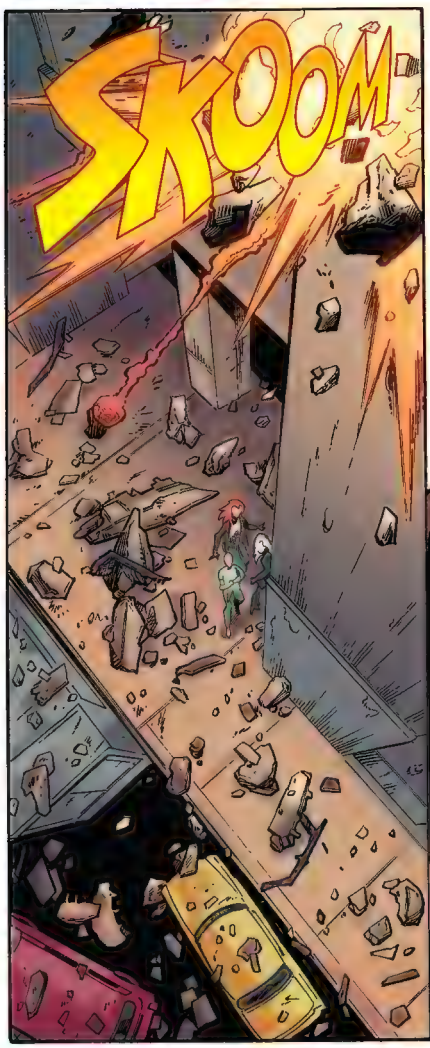
JUST ONE SMALL STEP AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER.
KA-CHAK
IT WILL ONLY HURT FOR A MOMENT...
...THEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE PAIN.
YOU ARE SO BRAVE.
NO!
GET BACK INSIDE, LADY! SHE JUMPED!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!


HUH? SP-SPIDER-MAN?
YOU OKAY?
MJ WAS WORRIED YOU WEREN'T--
THAT'S NOT BEN. THAT'S--

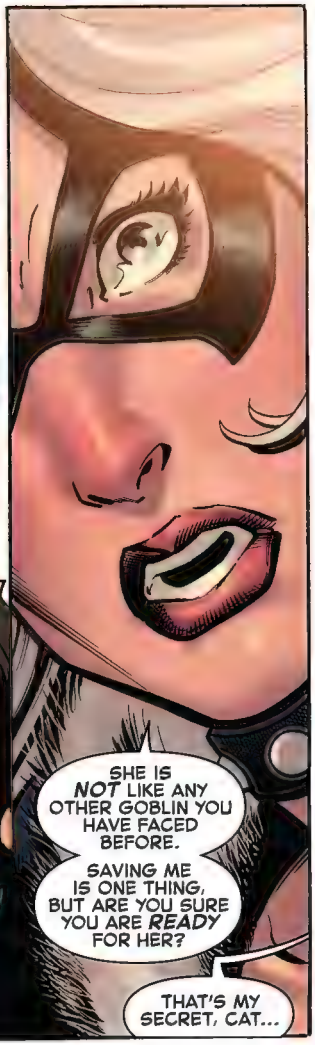
"...PETER!"
NICE AND EASY-- JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS.
DO NOT FOCUS ON THE KNUCKLE-WHITENING, BODY-SHAKING, FACE-MELTING, SEARING-HOT PAIN, LIKE P.T. TAUGHT YOU.
YOU MAKE THIS LOOK EASY. YOU TOTALLY GOT THIS.
T-T-TOTALLY G-GOT THIS.
FELICIA! WHAT WAS THAT?
GOBLIN CHICK RUNG MY BELL THEN GOT IN MY HEAD. TWISTED EVERY NEGATIVE THOUGHT I EVER HAD AND CHOKED OUT MY FREE WILL.
IT WAS AWFUL. STILL SEEING DOUBLE.
BEN WAS HERE, BUT THEN HE BAILED ON EVERYONE!
THAT DOES NOT SOUND LIKE YOU SPIDER-GUYS AT ALL.
I NEED TO FIND HIM.
HALF-EMPTY WEB CARTRIDGES, SPIDER-SUIT...
WOULD IT KILL YOU GUYS TO CARRY A FIRST AID KIT?
SORRY I SECOND-GUESSED YOUR RESOLVE BACK AT THE HOSPITAL, PETER. THIS BAD FRIEND OWES YOU SO MUCH MORE THAN THOSE WEB-SHOOTERS.
YOU DON'T OWE ME A THING, FELICIA.


WELL, AFTER HOW HARD YOU'VE WORKED AND HOW FAR YOU'VE COME, YOU'VE CERTAINLY *EARNED* MORE.
PERHAPS WE HAVE AN ENSEMBLE AVAILABLE THAT WILL GO FABULOUSLY WITH THOSE WEB-SHOOTERS, MJ?
OH, ABSOLUTELY.
FACE IT, TIGER...


...YOU HIT THE JACKPOT *AGAIN*.


SKOOM

AND WE ARE ABOUT TO GO *BUST* AGAIN! SHE'S STILL UP THERE!
GET FELICIA SOMEWHERE SAFE, MJ. I'LL PUT AN END TO THIS, THEN I'LL FIND BEN.

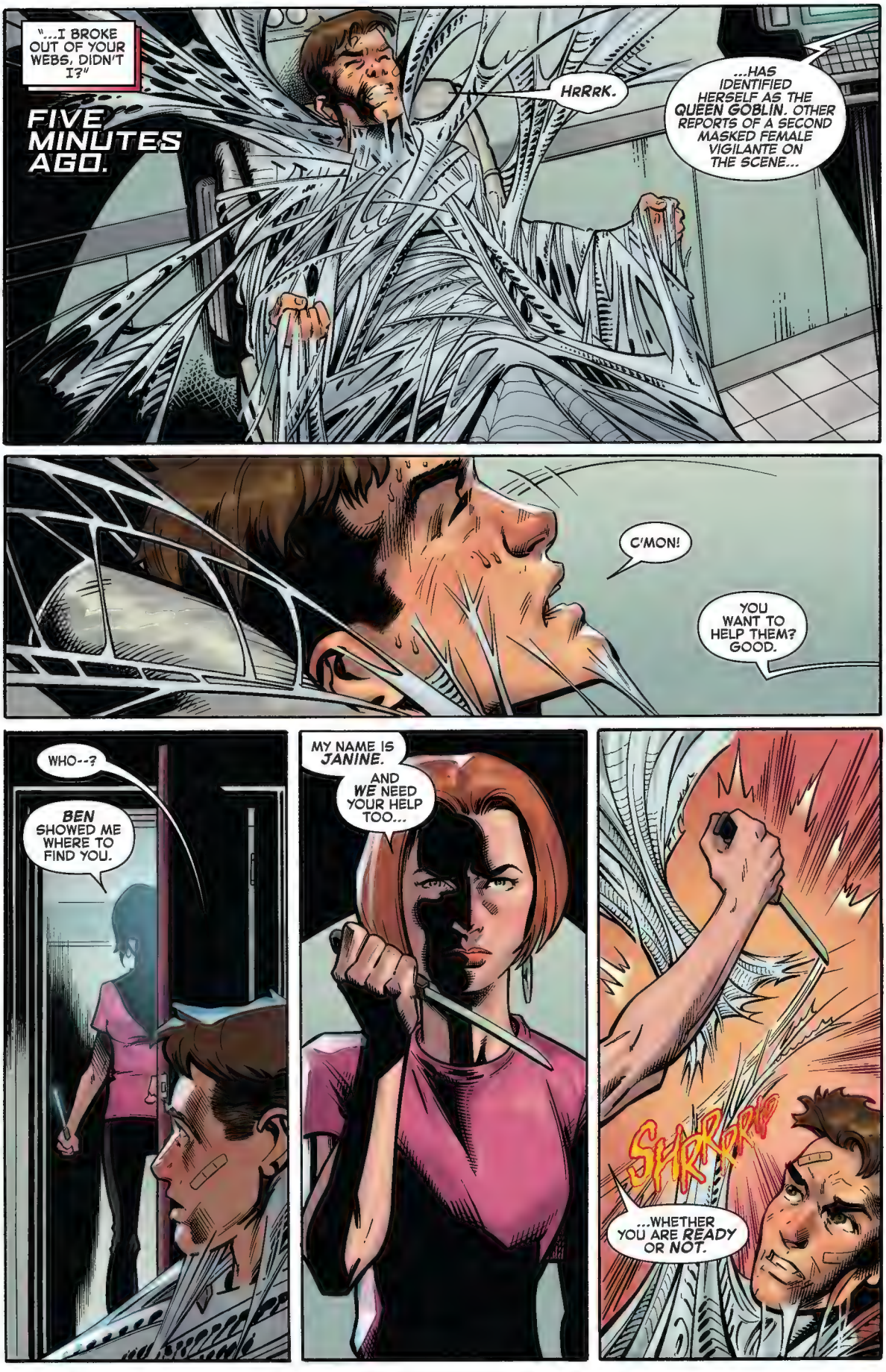

SHE IS *NOT* LIKE ANY OTHER GOBLIN YOU HAVE FACED BEFORE.
SAVING ME IS ONE THING, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE *READY* FOR HER?
THAT'S MY SECRET, CAT...

...I'M NEVER READY.

HE STILL LOOKS... *UNSTEADY.* ARE YOU SURE HE'S UP FOR THIS?

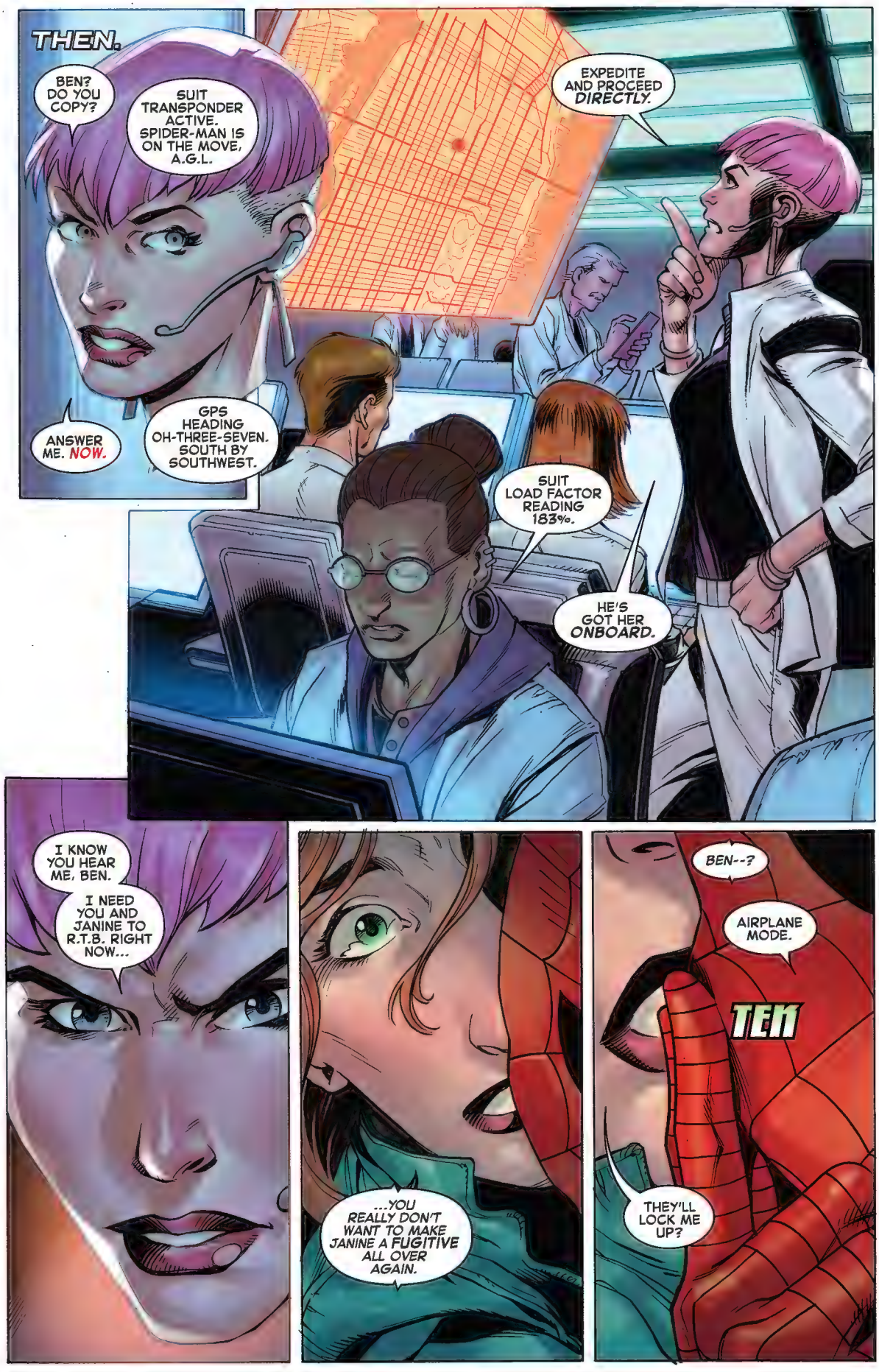
THE MIND AND BODY ARE *BOTH* STRONG, RIGHT, SPIDER-HOPPER?

DON'T WORRY, CAT! REMEMBER...


"...I BROKE OUT OF YOUR WEBS, DIDN'T I?"
FIVE MINUTES AGO.
HRRRK.
...HAS IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS THE QUEEN GOBLIN. OTHER REPORTS OF A SECOND MASKED FEMALE VIGILANTE ON THE SCENE...
C'MON!
YOU WANT TO HELP THEM? GOOD.
WHO--?
BEN SHOWED ME WHERE TO FIND YOU.
MY NAME IS JANINE.
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TOO...
SHRRRK
...WHETHER YOU ARE READY OR NOT.

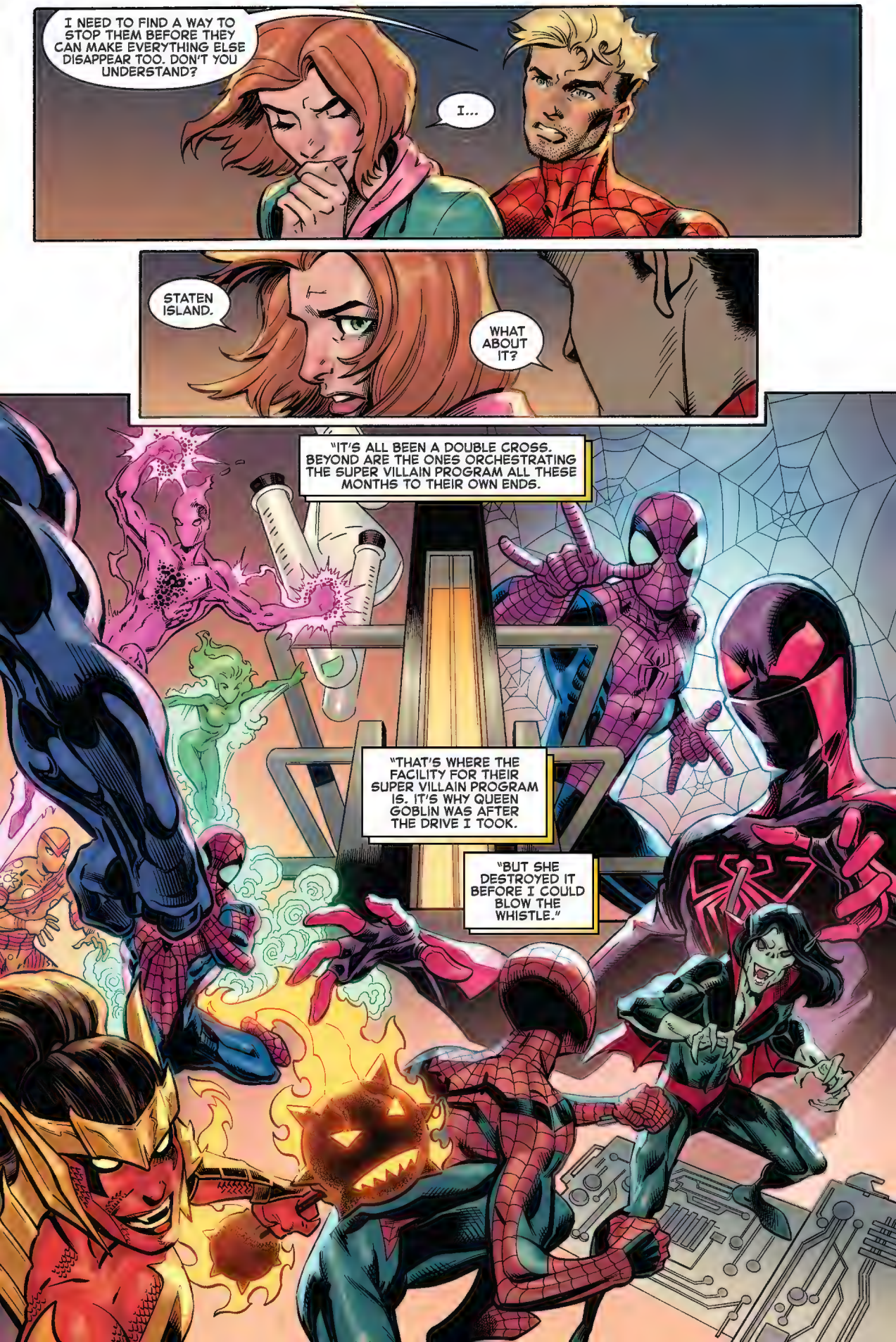
#90 VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON & **MARTE GRACIA**

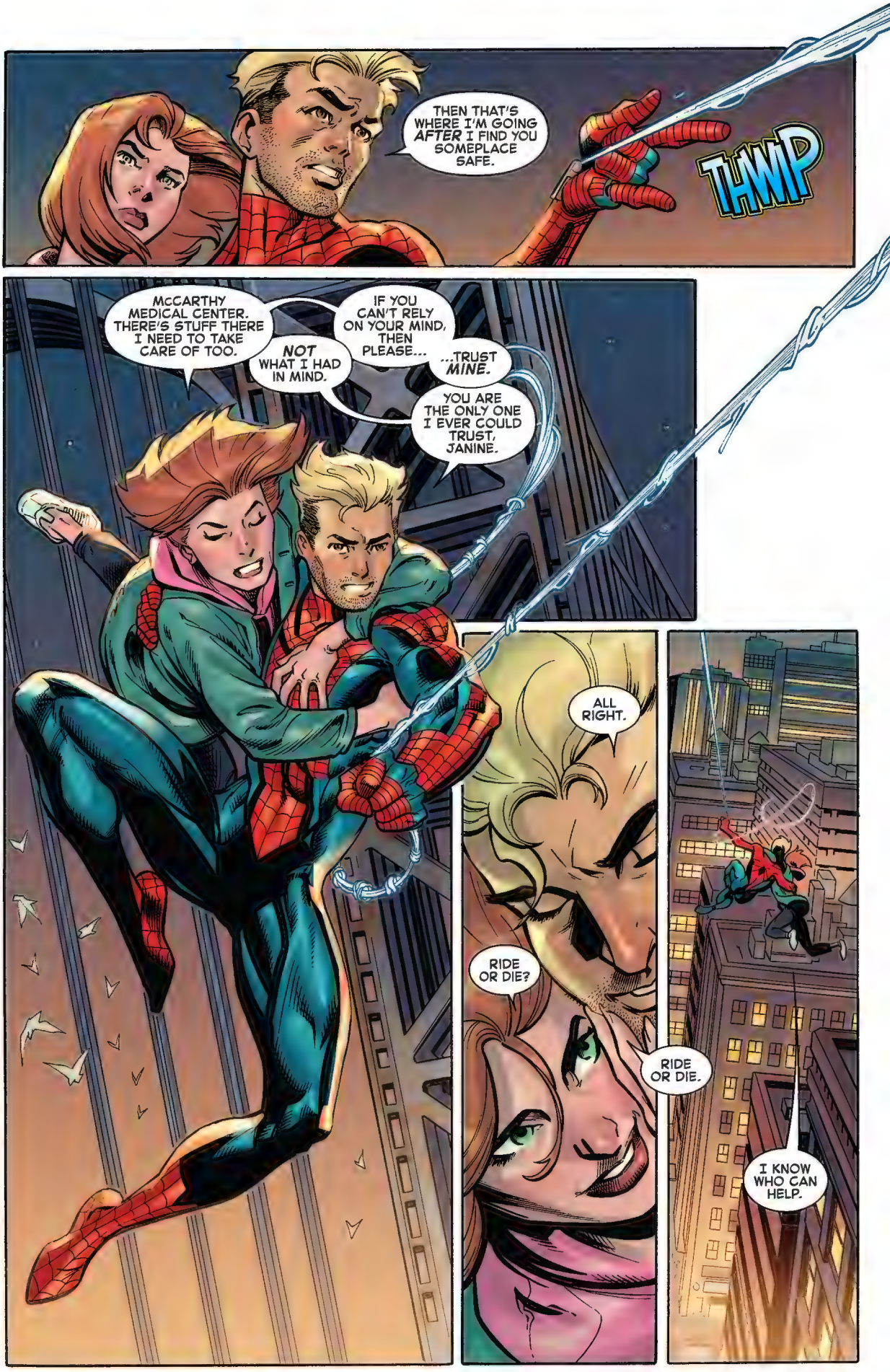
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN IN ACTION!


THEN.
BEN? DO YOU COPY?
SUIT TRANSPONDER ACTIVE. SPIDER-MAN IS ON THE MOVE, A.G.L.
ANSWER ME. NOW.
GPS HEADING OH-THREE-SEVEN. SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST.
EXPEDITE AND PROCEED DIRECTLY.
SUIT LOAD FACTOR READING 183%.
HE'S GOT HER ONBOARD.
I KNOW YOU HEAR ME, BEN.
I NEED YOU AND JANINE TO R.T.B. RIGHT NOW...
...YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO MAKE JANINE A FUGITIVE ALL OVER AGAIN.
BEN--?
AIRPLANE MODE.
TEN
THEY'LL LOCK ME UP?

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.
BUT THOSE PEOPLE BACK AT THE *BUGLE*...THEY NEEDED YOUR HELP TOO.
NOT MY PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.
NOT YOUR--?
OUR *ONLY* PROBLEM IS BEYOND.
BUGLE

BEN, THIS ISN'T... YOU.
YOU HEARD MAXINE. THEY'LL SPIN IT--MAKE YOU AND ME THE BAD GUYS.
THEY ALREADY HAVE.
BURNING THEM DOWN IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN CLEAR YOUR NAME.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE FREE.
DAILY BUGLE
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. IT'S LIKE...SOMETHING'S MISSING.
I'M FINE.
JANINE, LOOK. THEY TOOK...THINGS. MEMORIES. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
THERE ARE LITTLE GAPS, HOLES FOR THEM TO FILL IN LATER, I GUESS, BUT I'M OKAY. I CAN WORK AROUND THEM.
I JUST NEED TO FOCUS.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH. THEY'VE TAKEN TOO MUCH ALREADY. WE'RE GETTING THEM BACK. TOGETHER.
THEY HAVE TO MAKE YOU WHOLE.


I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE DISAPPEAR TOO. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I...
STATEN ISLAND.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
"IT'S ALL BEEN A DOUBLE CROSS. BEYOND ARE THE ONES ORCHESTRATING THE SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM ALL THESE MONTHS TO THEIR OWN ENDS.
"THAT'S WHERE THE FACILITY FOR THEIR SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM IS. IT'S WHY QUEEN GOBLIN WAS AFTER THE DRIVE I TOOK.
"BUT SHE DESTROYED IT BEFORE I COULD BLOW THE WHISTLE."


THEN THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING *AFTER* I FIND YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.
THMP
MCCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER. THERE'S STUFF THERE I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF TOO.
NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
IF YOU CAN'T RELY ON YOUR MIND, THEN PLEASE...
...TRUST *MINE*.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I EVER COULD TRUST, JANINE.
ALL RIGHT.
RIDE OR DIE?
RIDE OR DIE.
I KNOW WHO CAN HELP.

NOW.

HELP.

HELP.
HELP.
HELP.

HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THE GOBLIN THING HAS BEEN DONE TO *DEATH.*

SO MANY GOBLINS IN YOUR LIFE. IT MUST FRIGHTEN YOU *DEEPLY.*

PRETTY SURE THE X-MEN HAVE A *WAY* SCARIER GOBLIN QUEEN.

QUEEN GOBLIN!

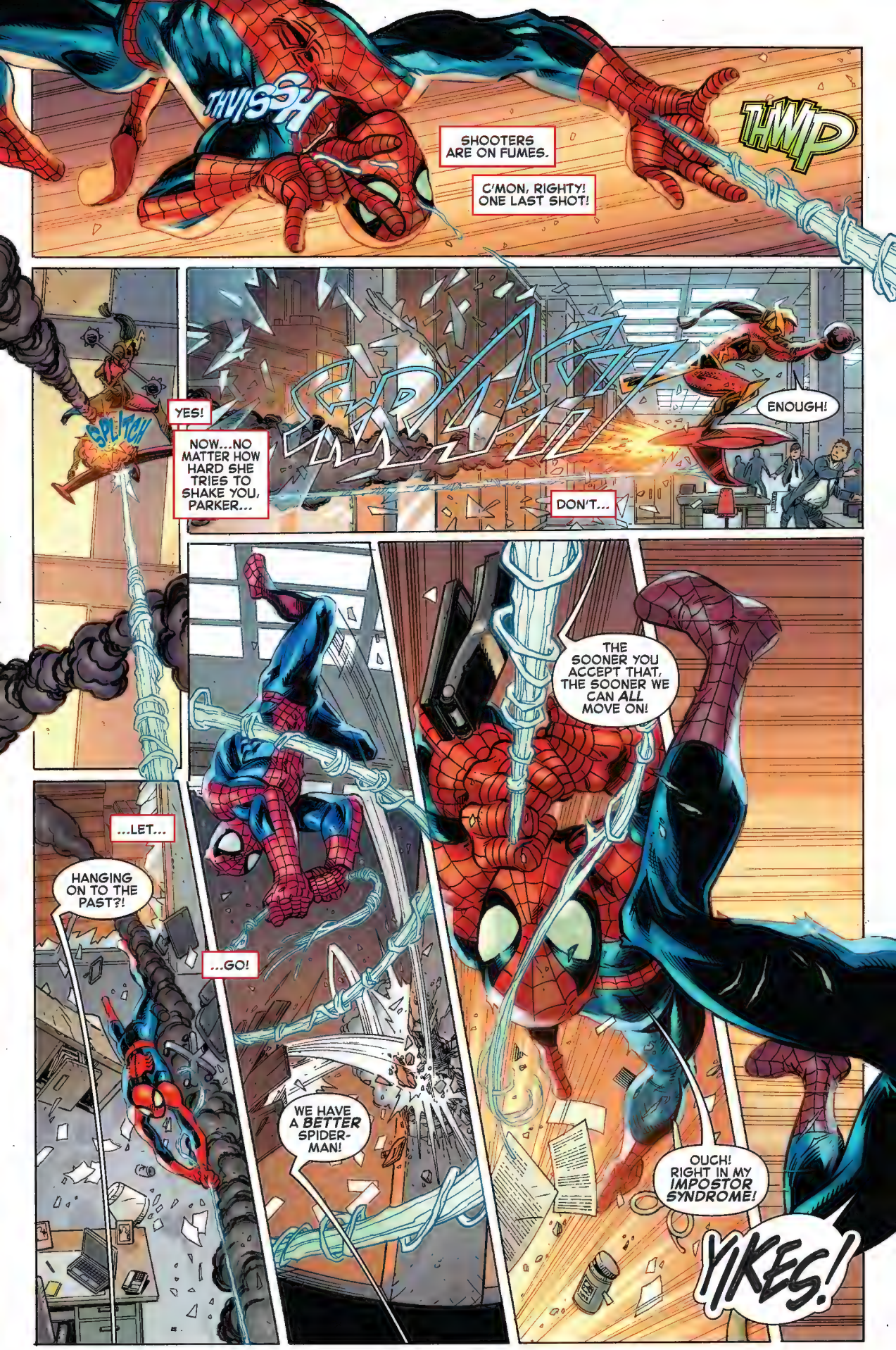
OH. RHYMES WITH *GREEN GOBLIN?* I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER THAT.

SLIPPERY. SHE'S BEEN ANTICIPATING ATTACKS AND KEEPING ME AT ARM'S LENGTH FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR.

I KNOW I'M SLOWER THESE DAYS, BUT AM I TELEGRAPHING *THAT* MUCH?

BEYOND HAS TERABYTES OF SPIDER-MAN DATA. I SEE EVERYTHING, AND FRANKLY, WAITING FOR YOU TO *DO* WHAT I ALREADY *KNOW* YOU'LL DO IS BECOMING *DULL.*

I'M AFRAID OUR TIME TOGETHER IS *UP.*


THWISH
SHOOTERS ARE ON FUMES.
C'MON, RIGHTY! ONE LAST SHOT!
THWP
SPLAT
YES!
NOW...NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIES TO SHAKE YOU, PARKER...
SURPRISE!
ENOUGH!
DON'T...
THE SOONER YOU ACCEPT THAT, THE SOONER WE CAN ALL MOVE ON!
...LET...
HANGING ON TO THE PAST?!
...GO!
WE HAVE A BETTER SPIDER-MAN!
OUCH! RIGHT IN MY IMPOSTOR SYNDROME!
YIKES!

SPIDER-SENSE IS SCREAMING AT ME TO LET GO.
EVERY WALL I SLAM THROUGH PUNISHES ME FOR NOT LISTENING.
SKRAKOOM
SHEESH, LADY, WHO'D YOU GET YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM? MATT MURDOCK?
FEH!
BARELY HOLDING ON. THE ADHESIVE OF THE WEB IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING KEEPING MY ALREADY SHAKY GRIP FROM SLIPPING.
TWANG
SHE'S BEEN TAKING THE LEAD THIS WHOLE TIME.
THE LONGER I TRY TO KEEP UP, THE MORE GROUND I LOSE.
BABBLING DOESN'T MASK YOUR FEAR FROM ME, SPIDER-FRAUD!
OR YOUR PAIN!
OUT OF THE WAY!
KRAKOOM
GET THE NEXT ONE, PAL!
THIS SHRINK IS RUINING MY STYLE.
HA HA HA HA!
KRRRRM

THOOM
THE QUEENSBORO BRIDGE? NOW YOU'RE *BEGGING* FOR A HILARIOUS QUEEN IN QUEENS QUIP!
THAT SENTENCE WAS WAY OVER ITS LIMIT OF Q's.
ENOUGH PROPERTY DAMAGE. TIME TO STOP LETTING HER STEER AND DO A LITTLE BACKSEAT DRIVING OF MY OWN.
FISHING BOATS
RRRGH!
VWOOOSH
ARRGH!
KATHOOM
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT *WORKED!* WE'RE HEADING OUT OVER OPEN WATER.
LET'S HOPE MY SHOULDER STAYS IN ITS SOCKET LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO WHIP THAT GLIDER INTO THE EAST RIVER!
THOOM

VWOOOOSH
NOW! WHILE SHE'S BUSY FIGHTING SOME SERIOUS G'S...
...I'VE GOT HER--
RIGHT WHERE I WANTED YOU!
WAIT-- ME?
LET GOBLINS GAZE!
FWASH
GAAAHHH!
DON'T YOU TIRE OF ASKING YOURSELF HOW TERRIBLE THINGS KEEP HAPPENING TO YOU OVER AND OVER?
Y-YES.
YES.
PERHAPS THE PROBLEM ISN'T OUT THERE, PERHAPS YOU ARE THE REASON YOU HAVE LOST SO MUCH.
SPLOOSH

DEEPER AND DEEPER.
THE GOBLINS WHISPER YOUR SHAMEFUL SECRETS TO ME.
THEY HAVE TAKEN SO MUCH, HAVEN'T THEY?
HARRY.
FLASH.
GWEN.
THE GOBLIN SEES WHAT YOU HAVE, WHO YOU ARE, AND IT WANTS TO MAKE YOU SUFFER BEFORE IT TAKES THE REST FROM YOU.
BUT FIRST, I WILL HELP YOU FIND THE TRUTH YOU COULD NEVER FIND YOURSELF.
CHERISH YOUR LAST BREATH AS IT TURNS TOXIC--IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.
I LEAVE YOU TO FACE THE QUESTION YOU FEAR THE MOST.
YOU DON'T REALLY DESERVE TO BE SPIDER-MAN, DO YOU?
NO. HE DOESN'T.
NOT MAN ENOUGH.
IRRESPONSIBLE.
I WISH YOU'D DIED INSTEAD OF BEN.
AH. THERE IT IS. ROCK BOTTOM.
DOESN'T SHE REALIZE SELF-DOUBT IS KIND OF OUR THING?
B-BEN?
REMEMBER THE HOSPITAL? YOU WERE WILLING TO SHARE EVERYTHING EVEN IF IT MEANT LETTING ME BE THE BETTER SPIDER-MAN.
I DON'T EXPECT PEOPLE TO HELP ME. SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ASK.
THAT'S WHAT MY THERAPIST SAYS, AT LEAST.
ANYWAY... THIS IS ME ASKING.

YOU D-DESERVE TO B-BE SPIDER-MAN.
L-LAST THING, B-BEN...
YEAH?
B-BE... AMAZING.
THAT'S JUST IT... WE BOTH ARE.
AND IF I DESERVE TO BE SPIDER-MAN, THEN SO DO YOU.
NEVER GIVE UP.

NO!
IT CAN'T
BE--

SKOOM
SPLASH!
OVER THERE!
GAHHH!
PROTECT THE QUEEN!
I--I THINK THAT'S WHAT THERAPISTS CALL...
...A BREAKTHROUGH.

BEYOND CORP.
DISPLAYS SHOW GLIDER EXITING OUR COVERAGE AREA. NO RADIO RESPONSE.
WHAT ABOUT OUR OTHER ASSET?
HIS AIRPLANE MODE IS STILL ACTIVE. WE'RE WORKING ON TRIANGULATIONS.
"TRIANGULATIONS"? WE HAVE PROTOCOLS--
THERE!
GAMMA LOCK IS SCATTERED BUT PATTERNS SEEM TO BE CONVERGING ON...
...THAT CAN'T BE.
HE'S ON STATEN ISLAND.
ALL COMMS.
"NOW!"
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, GUYS.
SINCE WHEN DOES THE COAST GUARD MOONLIGHT AS UBER?
US COAST GU

HAD TO PROMISE TO GET THE "REAL" SPIDER-MAN TO GIVE THEM A RECRUITMENT SHOUT-OUT ON TWITTER.
THANKS FOR THE FRESH WEBS.
HER CROWN?
YEAH, IT--
SHH! LISTEN!
XXX XXXXXX XXX
THIS IS MAXINE DANGER. SPIDER-MAN IS NO LONGER VIABLE. INITIATE BACKDRAFT PROTOCOL FOR STATEN ISLAND FACILITY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT BEYOND, NOTHING GOOD.
IT'S BEN. HE'S IN REAL TROUBLE. HE'S NOT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M WHAT HE NEEDS.
I'M ONLY ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT MYSELF.
THEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU THERE'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE WHOLE SPIDER-MAN, RIGHT?
LOVE IT WHEN YOU TALK MATH.
GO ON...

STATEN ISLAND.
"...YOUR BROTHER NEEDS YOU."
THERE IT IS.
WHOA. ALMOST MISSED THAT LANDING. MUST BE THE ADRENALINE.
FOCUS, REILLY.
REMEMBER WHY YOU'RE HERE.
REMEMBER WHAT THEY TOOK.
WHO I...
...I...
BEN?

...HELLO? EARTH TO SPIDER-MAN?
WHO--?
I MADE IT.
OH, HEY.
HEY...
PETER.
PETER.
LOOK AT YOU! ALL AMAZING AGAIN.
GREAT FOR YOU, BUDDY.
LOOK, BEN. I TALKED TO JANINE. SHE'S WORRIED. WE'RE WORRIED.
THEN YOU KNOW WHY TIME IS A FACTOR AND I HAVE TO GO RIGHT NOW.
SURPRISINGLY, YEAH. STILL WANT SOME HELP?
DEPENDS.
CAN YOU NOT GET YOURSELF NUKED THIS TIME?
NO PROMISES.
THEN LET'S DO THIS.
THWIP
THWIP
JUST TRY AND STOP ME.

WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, BRO.

WHAT LURKS BEHIND
DOOR
2?!

BEYOND SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM, STATEN ISLAND.
ON YOUR RIGHT!
THAT'S YOUR RIGHT!
SKRZZZT
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?
I'M... I'M HERE TO EXPOSE THE BEYOND SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM... RIGHT?
THWIP
BEHIND YOU!
...
PETER IS HELPING BUT...
...IS THAT ALL I'M HERE FOR? IT'S HARD TO CONNECT EVERYTHING IN MY MIND NOW. THERE ARE THESE BLANKS

THWIP THWIP
HEY. ARE YOU OKAY?
I... YEAH...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED BEFORE WE GOT HERE, BUT THINGS ARE SORTA... WELL, BAD IS THE WORD THAT COMES TO MIND.
AND I DON'T JUST MEAN BECAUSE BEYOND HAS CLEARLY BEEN UP TO NO GOOD HERE...
I MEAN MORE THAT MOST OF THE "NO GOOD" STUFF SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN OUT IN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES.
BEN, IF EITHER OF US IS GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE, I NEED YOUR HELP.

I CAN DO THAT.
WE CAN DO THAT.
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
IT'S ALMOST LIKE ART.
AND MAYBE YOU SAYING THAT IS THE REASON WE'RE HEROES AND NOT ARTISTS.
MAYBE. OR MAYBE WE'RE JUST AHEAD OF OUR TIME?
WELL, THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN TRUE.

SO, THAT WILL BUY US SOME TIME-- WHAT'S THE PLAN?
I...
BEN? BEN, WHAT'S WRONG?
GASP
IT--IT'S NOTHING. I--I'M FINE.
UH, HEY, YOU, UH, YOU OKAY THERE, LITTLE BUDDY?
LOOKS LIKE YOU AVOIDED OUR WEBBING PRETTY EASILY...BUT MAYBE THAT'S OKAY... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE, RIGHT?

Meep.
AWWW. IT'S SO CUTE... OH, YOU'RE BARFING.
BLARGGGGHHH
AH. CRAP. THEY'RE SUPER MEAN. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. TOO CUTE IS ALWAYS A RED FLAG.
Grraah!
BEN!

BEYOND HEADQUARTERS.
DIRECTOR, WE HAVE A FULL-SCALE CONTAINMENT BREACH AT THE STATEN ISLAND LOCATION AND--
YES, THAT WAS ME. OUR LITTLE SPIDER NEEDS TO LEARN SOME HARD LESSONS.
OH. I SEE. OF COURSE.
ADVANCE TEAM IS ALREADY EN ROUTE TO CONTAIN THE BREACH?
YES, DIRECTOR.
GOOD. HAVE THE RECOVERY TEAM PREPPED. I SUSPECT THEY'LL BE NEEDED AS WELL BEFORE THIS IS OVER.
OF COURSE.
AND, FLETCHER? LET'S PUT THE WET WORK TEAM ON STANDBY.
...Y-YES, MA'AM.
IF WE HAVE TO OPEN DOOR Z, IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.
...UNDERSTOOD.

GET IT TOGETHER. IT'S NOT REAL. WHATEVER THIS IS... IT'S NOT REAL.
GAH! BEN! LITTLE HELP?! I THINK... THEY MIGHT BE MULTIPLYING!
EXCEPT IT IS.
WHAT'S MORE REAL THAN WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE YOU? NOTHING MATTERS IF I CAN'T GET CLEAR OF THIS.
NO. I REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM. I REFUSE TO BREAK UNDER WHATEVER BEYOND HAS DONE. I CAN CHANGE THIS.
ALL OF IT.

THWIP
GRRRREEEP!
THWIP
THANKS. YOU OKAY?
NOT REALLY.
WELL... OKAY, THEN.
BEST I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
BEEN THERE.
HAVE YOU?
YOU KNOW I HAVE.
...
THWIP
LET'S JUST GET THIS DONE.

I'M GONNA TAKE THIS WHOLE MESS OVER HERE-- YOU WANT THAT ONE?
YEAH, I GOT IT.
YOU GOT THIS IT'S FINE
NO!
THWIP
THWIP
BEN!
THWIP

KRRRAAAAAASSSSSHH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS BADASS CAR CAN *FLY* TOO!
I DON'T THINK IT FLIES, GIRL-- WE'RE JUST FALLING!
AND WE MAKE IT LOOK *GOOOOD!*
LET'S JUST HOPE WE MAKE IT IN ONE PIECE. BEYOND ISN'T GONNA GIVE US A *THIRD CAR.*

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
CRASH
MEEEEEEP!
HELLO, SPIDERS. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU GET THIS UNDER CONTROL, BUT WHAT'S THE REAL STORY?
MAYBE DON'T PUT A GIANT ESCAPE HATCH IN THE CEILING?
YEAH, THESE THINGS BEING TRAPPED IN HERE WAS MAYBE THE ONLY ADVANTAGE WE HAD?

PFFT. AREN'T YOU BOTH FILLED WITH STICKY WEB STUFF?
SPIDERS ARE LIKE 75% WEBS INSIDE.
MMMPH!
I MEAN, HER PERCENTAGES ARE TERRIBLE, BUT SHE'S NOT TOTALLY WRONG.
YEAH... OKAY, LET'S DO IT.
THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP
MEEP?

THWP
I DON'T WANT TO BE JUDGMENTAL, BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU HAVE THE STATURE FOR THIS CHAIN SAW GIG, SIR.
THWP
YOU'RE EXTINCT. CALM DOWN.
RAAGGGGLLLUGGG
BOMB
NOT... COOL.
OH, DAMN. SORRY?
SQUAAA WWKK!
I SEE YOU HAVE SKILLS, CHICKEN-MAN. AND I SAY THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH!

IS IT ME, OR DO THESE FLOWER THINGS SMELL LIKE FARTS?
IT'S NOT YOU!
DIABOLICAL. I'D RATHER FIGHT ALMOST ANYTHING THAN FARTS.
BLAKKKT
COULD USE YOUR HELP WITH THE GIANT MECHA-SPIDER, BEN.
WOOMBA
WOOMBA
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!
THWIP
THWIP
IT'S ONLY BETTER IF IT'S VERY, VERY FAST!
SORRY, PETE. WE HAVE DIFFERENT AGENDAS.

STAR MOTEL
SPECIAL RATES
WI-FI
650
HVO
SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY.
star MOTEL
HE'S FINE. YOU'RE FINE. IT'S ALL GOING TO BE FINE.
BUT NOT IF YOU DON'T TEXT ME, BEN!
I CAN'T JUST WAIT HERE FOREVER LIKE THIS. WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?
THAT'S IT. I CAN'T DO IT LIKE THIS. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. I'M JUST NOT BUILT TO SIT BY THE PHONE.
12
AND I'M NO DAMN DAMSEL.

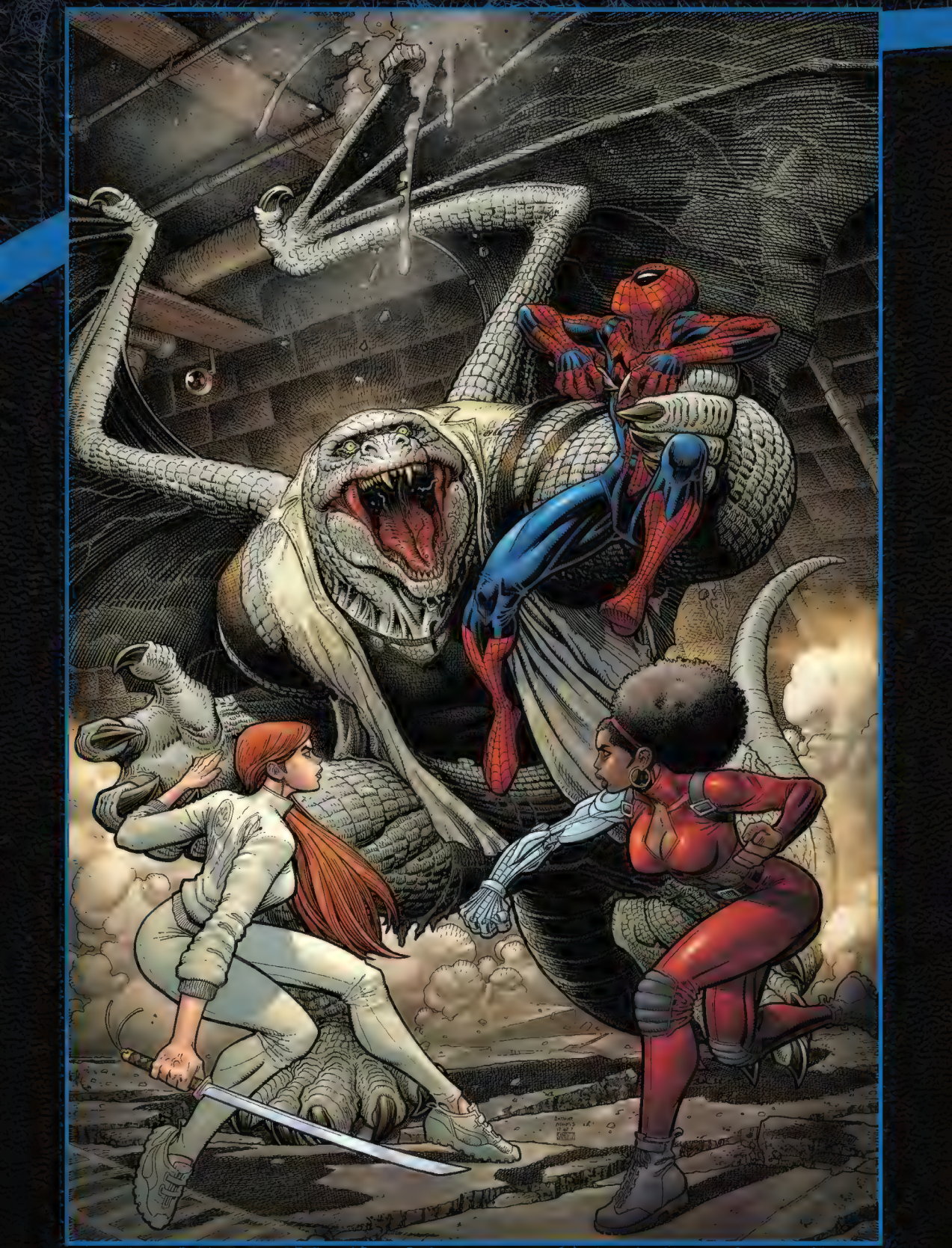
STATEN ISLAND.
HACKING IN THROUGH THIS CONTROL PANEL WAS EASY ENOUGH, BUT FINDING THE DATA MIGHT BE--
LOCKED
WAIT! NO! DAMMIT!
I MUST HAVE TRIPPED SOME KIND OF FAIL-SAFE. THE DATA IS SCRAMBLING...
BEN. ENOUGH. COME BACK IN. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO WORK THIS OUT.
WORK THIS OUT?! YOU'RE INSANE. WHAT YOU'RE DOING AT THIS FACILITY IS STRAIGHT UP VILLAIN #$%&.
IT'S NOT MY PROGRAM.
THAT'S CONVENIENT.
STOP THIS BEFORE IT GETS WORSE, BEN. I'VE GOT TEAMS COMING TO HELP CLEAN UP THE MESS. WE CAN WORK THIS OUT.
OR WHAT?
OR I GUESS I COULD OPEN DOOR 2 TOO?

...Y'KNOW WHAT?
DON'T BOTHER. I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
?!?!
PING
W--WHY-- WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
KRR-THUNK
BECAUSE I NO LONGER CARE WHAT'S IN THERE, MAXINE. I CARE ABOUT YOU. I'M COMING FOR YOU, FOR ANSWERS. AND YOU'D BETTER HOPE I LIKE WHAT I FIND.
I'D BE RUNNING ALREADY IF I WERE YOU.
BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP
ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.
ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.
YOU EVER HAVE THAT FEELING... LIKE YOU JUST MADE A CHOICE THAT'S GONNA DEFINE YOU FOREVER? IT'S A VERY SPECIFIC KIND OF FEELING.
IT ALL FEELS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW...BUT IN A WAY I NO LONGER UNDERSTAND.

BEEEP
BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP
ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.
ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.
WHAT IS THAT INFERNAL BEEPING?
...BEN?
BEN. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
#$%&.
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T HAVE ANY OF YOU GETTING IN MY WAY.
TOSS
BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP
ALL PERSONNEL ON SITE ARE TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.
BOOM
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S LEAVING.
HE'S IN MORE TROUBLE THAN I THOUGHT.
I THINK YOU MEAN US. WE ARE IN THE TROUBLE.
ALSO TRUE.

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP
ALL PERSONNEL ON SITE ARE TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.
BEEEP
THIS DOOR TAKES ITS TIME, HUH? VERY DRAMATIC.
I MEAN WHAT I SAY. BUT IT IS ALSO OMINOUS. YES.
I THINK YOU MEAN OMINOUS.
BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP
EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.
I HOPE IT'S A PONY.
THMP THMP
UH, I DON'T WANT TO SEE WHAT BEYOND DOES TO PONIES.
I THINK I'M WITH THE SPIDER.
HOWEVER, SEALING US IN AGAIN? I KNOW IT'S THE RIGHT CALL, BUT I DON'T LOVE IT.
ME NEITHER.
HAVE SOME HOPE-- MAYBE WE CAN HIT WHATEVER IT IS WITH THE CAR!
YOU REALLY LOVE THAT CAR.
I DO.
BEEEEEEEEE--
...I SORT OF EXPECTED TO BE HALF TORN UP BY NOW.
YEAH. AS WEIRD AS IT SOUNDS, I THINK NOTHING IS ACTUALLY SCARIER THAN IF THERE WAS SOMETHING COMING AT US.
GRRRRRRR

KRAAAA!
I WAS WRONG-- THIS IS WORSE.
CONNORS? WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
#$%&.



OKAY, LET'S CATCH UP.
BEN REILLY-- THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN--
--NO, NOT THAT OTHER ONE, THE OTHER, OTHER ONE--
--JUST RELEASED ONE OF BEYOND'S BIGGER AND BADDER BIG BADDIES BEFORE TAKING OFF ALL ON HIS UNSTABLE LONESOME FOR WHATEVER REASON...
POW! POW!
POW
...SO GUESS WHO HAS TO TAKE CARE OF IT?
SHANGG
HSSSS!
CONNORS! HI!
ALSO, CAN'T BREATHE!

RELAX, BABY.
GIMME A MINUTE AND I'LL HAVE THIS GUY...
...CUT DOWN TO SIZE.
SLASH
YOU SURE THAT'S CURT CONNORS? DON'T REMEMBER HIM HAVING WINGS.
SURE? NO.
ZONE
BUT WE SHOULD KNOW ANY SECOND.
SPLORCH

REGENERATING LIMBS. CHECK. THAT'S THE LIZARD.
ISN'T HE USUALLY GREENER?
YEAH, AND THOSE WINGS ARE FAMILIAR.
I THINK IT'S SOMETHING NEW.
THEY TOOK A BIT OF THE LIZARD...
...AND MIXED IT WITH SOME OF THAT!
SOME OF WHAT?!
SOME OF THAT.
IT'S A VAMPIRE-LIZARD!

BEYOND HQ, MANHATTAN.
I'M NOT A BAD PERSON.
ACCESS RESTRICTED--
BODY SCENT VERRRR-IFFFF-IED--
OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I TELL MYSELF.
THERE'S A HOLE IN MY MEMORIES, A YAWNING PIT. THE MEMORIES THAT PETER AND I SHARED.
--KRZZKK--
--SPI-SPI-SPIDER-MAN-N-N-N--
THE KIND OF MEMORIES THAT SHOULD MAKE ME FEEL TERRIBLE FOR TAKING LANGSTON APART LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF HE WAS JUST A MACHINE.
PETER WOULD FEEL BAD.
I DON'T FEEL A THING.

BUT MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING, ACTUALLY. IN THIS VERY MOMENT.
WE'VE GOT EYES ON HIM!
STAND DOWN, SPIDER-MAN!
AFTER ALL, IF I COULD FEEL BAD FOR THE THINGS I'M DOING...
...THIS WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT HARDER.
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

...ARE WE UNDERSTOOD?
YES, YES, YOU'VE ALL MADE THIS FAILURE *PERFECTLY* CLEAR.
I'M PREPARING THE FAIL-SAFES AS WE SPEAK. THE DATA WILL BE BACKED UP TO THE OFF-SITE FARMS. FLOODING THE LOWER LEVELS WITH *PSYCHO-REACTIVE QUANTUM-SHIFTING GOO®* WILL TAKE CARE OF ANY OTHER INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE...
...AND YOU *FINE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD* WILL BE SAFE FROM ANY REPERCUSSIONS OF *LEGALITY* OR *PUBLICITY*.
IT'S NOT AS IF THIS IS THE *FIRST* TIME I'VE SCUTTLED AN OPERATION.
GOD, WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A *BIG RED BUTTON?*
WE'VE GOT EYES ON HIM!
STAND DOWN, SPIDER-MAN!
AAAHHHH!!!
OH NO.

"HE'S COME FOR ME."
BOOM
BOOM
HMM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BOOM
BOOM
LET'S LET HIM OUT. IT'LL BE FUN.
I DON'T KNOW.
COME ON--CAN IT BE WORSE THAN WHAT WE'RE IN NOW?
COLLEEN, IT CAN ALWAYS BE A WHOLE LOT WORSE.
CAN WE COME TO A CONSENSUS SOON, PLEASE?!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
OKAY, FINE.
WORSE COMES TO WORST, MAYBE WE CAN JAM HIM DOWN CREATURE Z'S NECK AND CHOKE IT.
YAAAAY!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

RAAAAAGH!!!
HEY THERE, HANDSOME.
HOW YOU FEELING?
...I...
I AM... MYSELF AGAIN.
MY CONDITION... MY SYSTEM WAS PUT IN CRISIS.
BEYOND STABILIZED IT.
WAIT... BEYOND DID YOU A SOLID?
NO. IT WAS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO EXPERIMENT ON ME. TO CUT ME, TO TAKE SAMPLES. I ASSURE YOU, I BEAR BEYOND NOTHING BUT ENMITY.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY, MORBIUS...
...HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE SOME OF THAT ENMITY AND GIVE US A HAND, HUH?
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

I HAD TO RELEASE CREATURE Z.
PETER, COLLEEN, MISTY... THEY WOULDN'T HAVE UNDERSTOOD.
I NEEDED SOMETHING TO DISTRACT THEM, SO I COULD DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
I NEED MY MEMORIES BACK.
THE ONES FROM PETER. THE ONES THAT TELL ME WHO I AM. HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO LIVE.
I'M NOT A BAD PERSON.
I JUST NEED MY MEMORIES BACK.
AND THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING THEM.
THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING THEM FROM ME.

I'M GOING TO GET THEM BACK.
I'M GOING TO GET RIGHT.
FLUTTER FLUTTER
WHAT--
I'M GOING TO--
THE EATER HAS BECOME THE EATEN!
THE EATER HAS BECOME THE EATEN!
YAAAHH!

WAIT.
THE BANGING STOPPED? IT'S GONE?
WELL, HEY, GOOD JOB ALL AROUND!
NO--
IF CREATURE Z ISN'T AFTER US, IT MUST BE ESCAPING THE FACILITY!
THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE OUT THERE!
YOU LET US DEAL WITH THAT. COLLEEN, MIKE, AND I CAN HANDLE CREATURE Z. WE'LL CALL IN AUNTIE MONICA TO COME CLEAN UP TOO.
YOU GO FIND BEN. HE NEEDS SOMEONE, AND YOU'RE THE BEST BET.
ARE YOU SURE?
A GIANT VAMPIRE LIZARD IS, SURPRISINGLY, WELL WITHIN OUR WHEELHOUSE, REALLY.
BESIDES, WE'VE GOT MIKE ON OUR SIDE NOW.
WHO IS "MIKE"?
IT'S YOU. YOU'RE MIKE.
I PREFER "MICHAEL." OR "DOCTOR MORBIUS."
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MIKE.

WAAA

JANINE, IT'S ALL GONE TO HELL--
I KNOW--
THERE'S NO COMING BACK FROM THIS--
I KNOW, BEN. I KNOW.
IT WAS ALWAYS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
ME OUT OF PRISON? YOU AS SPIDER-MAN?
WE KNEW THAT, EVEN IF WE DIDN'T WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'VE GOT YOU. EVERYTHING ELSE, WE'LL PUNCH OUR WAY THROUGH TILL WE'RE CLEAR.
YOU AND ME, ON THE RUN. LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
YOU WITH ME?
PLEASE.

"OF COURSE I AM."
BEN'S GONE COMPLETELY OFF THE RAILS. HE'S COMING AFTER ME.
HE NEEDS HELP, AND NO ONE IS BETTER SUITED TO HELP HIM THAN YOU...
...MARCUS.
UNBELIEVABLE.
AFTER ALL THE THINGS--
EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE--
MARCUS.
WHATEVER YOU MAY THINK OF ME, BEN REILLY IS STILL IN YOUR CARE. AND HE IS IN CRISIS.
SO, ARE YOU GOING TO HELP HIM?
FINE.
I KNOW YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT BEN. I KNOW YOU'RE JUST PUTTING ME BETWEEN HIM AND YOU.
I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP HIM FROM KILLING YOU, MAXINE. BUT NOT FOR YOU.
FOR HIM.
YES, YES. YOU'RE VERY PRINCIPLED, MARCUS.
A CREDIT TO THE COMPANY.

YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MIKE?
OF COURSE I AM.
I HAVE WON THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR BIOCHEMISTRY. I UNDERSTAND MY CONDITION AND HOW IT MANIFESTS IN OTHERS.
AND IT'S "DOCTOR MORBIUS."
LET'S COMPROMISE.
"DOCTOR MIKE"?
FEH.
FINE.
COMPROMISE, DOCTOR MIKE...

...MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND.
VRMMMMMMMM
HRRNMMN?
VROOOOM

SQUEEEEEE!
GET ON THE GOOD FOOT--LET'S GO!
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM
KIAI!
HISSSS!
YAAAGGHH!
WHAMM
HISSSSSS!

THAT'S RIGHT--COME ON!
COLLEEN!
YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD, PAL. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!
IS COLLEEN RIGHT OR NEARLY DEAD?! FIND OUT IN ASM #92.BEY! WE GOTTA GET BACK TO SPIDEY! -NL

--YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?
YEAH. I KNOW A *LOT* *MORE* ABOUT THIS PLACE THAN THEY THINK I DO. DO YOU?
I THINK SO. MAXINE KNOWS I'M COMING FOR HER. AND SHE KNOWS I WANT MY MEMORIES BACK. IT'S THE ONLY BARGAINING CHIP SHE HAS.
MEANWHILE, I NEED TO FIND MARCUS AND GET HIM CLEAR BEFORE WE *BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND.*
AND *THIS* IS MY TURN.
C'MERE.
I DON'T REMEMBER RIGHT FROM WRONG.
I DON'T REMEMBER ALL THE LESSONS THAT TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE.
BUT *JANINE*, ALL MY MEMORIES OF *HER*--THOSE ARE *MINE*. *ONLY* MINE.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO ANCHOR ME.

I'M NOT A BAD PERSON.
I CAN'T BE FOR HER.
BECAUSE SHE'S HAD ENOUGH BAD PEOPLE IN HER LIFE.
SO IT'S TIME TO GET MY MEMORIES BACK AND BE WHO I SHOULD BE.

STATEN ISLAND.
YEEK!
SNRLL.
GOT YOU NOW.

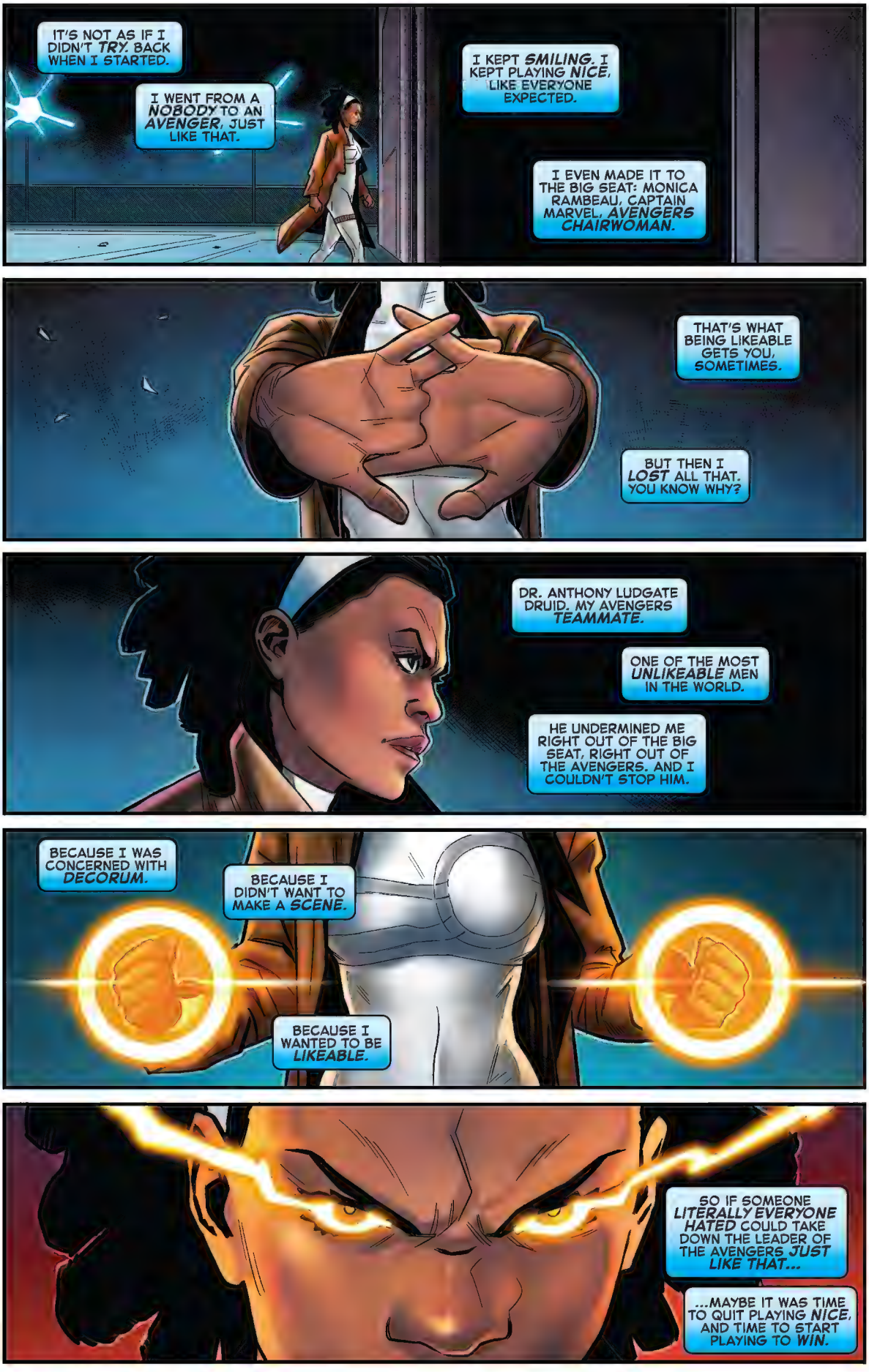
HISSSS!
YEAAARRGHH!
COLLEEN! WE GOOD?
I THINK SO? MAYBE?

YES... DRINK... DRINK DEEPLY, CREATURE.
THE CONNORS FORMULA...AND THE MORBIUS CONDITION.
THEY ARE BOTH IN YOU, BOTH IN BALANCE.
BUT IF THAT BALANCE WERE TO BE UPSET...
...IF THE DEATH IN MY BLOOD SHOCKED YOUR REGENERATIVE ABILITIES OUT OF CONTROL...
...WELL, WOULDN'T THAT BE INTERESTING?
RRRRRRRNNN...

HNN.
HNN.
HNN.
HNN.
REEEEAAARGH!!

SHRAK!
WELL, THAT WAS GROSS.
YEP.
GOOD WORK, DOCTOR MIKE.
SO, WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU, DOCTOR MIKE?
NEXT?
NEXT, I THINK THAT I WOULD LIKE TO NEVER SEE EITHER OF YOU TWO EVER AGAIN.
THAT'S FAIR!
YO, MISTY, YOU THINK MONICA GOT OUR MESSAGE?
SHE DAMN WELL *BETTER* HAVE-- I'M TIRED, GIRL.

I GUESS WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...
...I'M NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL "LIKEABLE."


IT'S NOT AS IF I DIDN'T TRY. BACK WHEN I STARTED.
I WENT FROM A NOBODY TO AN AVENGER, JUST LIKE THAT.
I KEPT SMILING. I KEPT PLAYING NICE, LIKE EVERYONE EXPECTED.
I EVEN MADE IT TO THE BIG SEAT: MONICA RAMBEAU, CAPTAIN MARVEL, AVENGERS CHAIRWOMAN.
THAT'S WHAT BEING LIKEABLE GETS YOU, SOMETIMES.
BUT THEN I LOST ALL THAT. YOU KNOW WHY?
DR. ANTHONY LUDGATE DRUID. MY AVENGERS TEAMMATE.
ONE OF THE MOST UNLIKEABLE MEN IN THE WORLD.
HE UNDERMINED ME RIGHT OUT OF THE BIG SEAT, RIGHT OUT OF THE AVENGERS. AND I COULDN'T STOP HIM.
BECAUSE I WAS CONCERNED WITH DECORUM.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A SCENE.
BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE LIKEABLE.
SO IF SOMEONE LITERALLY EVERYONE HATED COULD TAKE DOWN THE LEADER OF THE AVENGERS JUST LIKE THAT...
...MAYBE IT WAS TIME TO QUIT PLAYING NICE, AND TIME TO START PLAYING TO WIN.

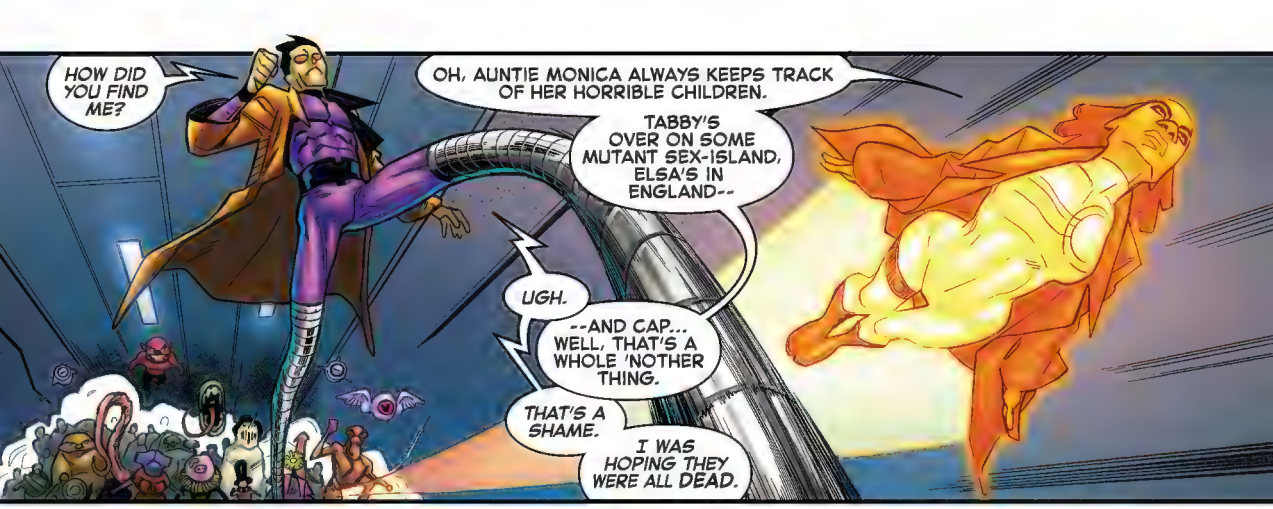
GOODBYE, CAPTAIN MARVEL.
HELLO, AUNTIE MONICA.

AND IT WORKED.
I LED A TEAM OF THE MOST UNLIKEABLE [redacted] YOU EVER MET AND TOOK DOWN ALL SORTS OF HORRIBLE PEOPLE.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I TANGLED WITH THE BEYOND CORPORATION.
JUST ANOTHER GROUP THAT WANTS TO MAKE LIFE WORSE FOR EVERYONE.
HIDING BEHIND "RESPECTABILITY."
WIELDING IT LIKE A WEAPON.
THEY CALL YOU ANGRY--FOR ACTING AGAINST THEM, FOR BREAKING THE RULES THEY MAKE UP. CALL YOU CRAZY. CALL YOU DANGEROUS.
CALL YOU UNLIKEABLE.
SO I SAY:
BE ANGRY. BE CRAZY. BE DANGEROUS.
BE UNLIKEABLE.
TREAT YOURSELF. YOU'VE EARNED IT.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE TAKEN BEYOND DOWN.
I'VE USED ANY NUMBER OF SPIDER-MEN AND DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON TO DO IT.
BUT FOR THIS KIND OF WORK, THE ACTUAL GETTING-YOUR-HANDS-DIRTY-AND-BURNING-DOWN-A-MULTINATIONAL-CONGLOMERATE, I NEED SOMEONE TRULY, REALLY TRULY...
...UNLIKEABLE.
THERE YOU ARE, YOU [redacted].
GO AWAY, FLESHY ONE.

SO WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, AARON?
MY GIRLFRIEND LEFT ME.
BECAUSE I'M A [redacted].
SO I THOUGHT, WHAT THE HELL? MAYBE I COULD BE A SUPER VILLAIN.
AFTER THE EVENTS OF IRON MAN 2020. --NL.
THAT'D SHOW HER!
SO I JOINED THE BEYOND VILLAIN PROGRAM.
BUT IT TURNS OUT I'M TOO DEPRESSED TO EVEN DO THAT.
DID YOU KNOW I'M NOT EVEN THE REAL MACHINE MAN?
THE MACHINE MAY BE COLD AND EMOTIONLESS...
...BUT THE MAN--OH, THE MAN!

FOR GOD'S SAKE!
STUPID!
KLUDD
ROBOT!
KLUDD
:@:@:@:@:!
KLUDD
AAAAHHH!
YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS, AARON?!
YOU THINK I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU?
I CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE A :@:@:@:@...
...AND YOU'RE MY :@:@:@:@.
AND THERE'S A WHOLE STABLE OF BEYOND MONSTERS OUT THERE THAT I HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
AND THEY'RE FLESHY.


HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
OH, AUNTIE MONICA ALWAYS KEEPS TRACK OF HER HORRIBLE CHILDREN.
TABBY'S OVER ON SOME MUTANT SEX-ISLAND, ELSA'S IN ENGLAND--
UGH.
--AND CAP... WELL, THAT'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER THING.
THAT'S A SHAME.
I WAS HOPING THEY WERE ALL DEAD.

SURE, MISTY, COLLEEN AND SPIDER-MAN--
--ONE OF THEM, AT LEAST--
--ARE GOING AFTER THE BIG MONSTER.

DO I WISH I'D GONE WITH THEM? GO PUNCH OUT DRACZILLA?
OF COURSE I DO.

THAT DOESN'T DO THE FINE RESIDENTS OF STATEN ISLAND MUCH GOOD WITH ALL THE REST OF BEYOND'S BUILD-A-MONSTER PROGRAM RUNNING LOOSE THOUGH.
AND BESIDES:
I WANT TO MAKE SURE THIS PLACE BURNS TO THE GROUND MYSELF.

AND SPEAKING OF WHICH--
AARON!
AARON, I NEED YOU TO USE YOUR ROBOT BRAIN!
MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN!
NO WAY! ABSOLUTELY NOT!
SAY IT! SAY YOU NEED MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN!
I NEED YOUR BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN.
THE OTHER BONUS TO WORKING WITH AN UNLIKEABLE TEAM IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL BAD IF THEY DIE.
OR IF YOU KILL THEM.
I NEED YOU TO PLUG INTO THE FACILITY'S MASTER SYSTEM!
SOUNDS DIRTY.
IT'S--NO, I WANT YOU TO SET THE BUILDING TO SELF-DESTRUCT!
SOUNDS FILTHY.

KA-CHUK
KILLING AN ENTIRE FACILITY WITH MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN.
WHO'S DIRECTIONLESS NOW, JOCASTA?!
IS IT REALLY THAT EASY?
OF COURSE IT IS.
BEYOND'S NEVER MET A MAD-SCIENCE SELF-DESTRUCT SYSTEM IT DIDN'T LIKE.
snnnrrrrkt!
AND BESIDES, FIVE MINUTES OF TALKING WITH AARON IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANT TO KILL MYSELF.
GOD KNOWS WHAT A DIRECT A.I. CONNECTION WOULD BE LIKE.
YOU KNOW, I THINK THIS IS A REAL IMPROVEMENT FOR YOU, AARON.
HMM.
SO THE CHICKENS HAVE INDEED COME HOME TO ROOST.
NEXTWAVE.
OR TWO-FIFTHS OF NEXTWAVE, AT ANY RATE. OR...
...ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW THE FRACTIONS WORK OUT IF THE ROBOT DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD.

MAXINE.
SO NICE OF YOU TO CALL.
SAVED ME THE QUARTER.
A PAYPHONE JOKE?
GOD, HOW OLD ARE YOU--SIXTY-FIVE?
IT WAS ME, MAXINE. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.
TELL THAT TO WHOEVER YOU WORK FOR.
IT WAS ME ALL ALONG.
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON? WORKING FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME. THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE THE HEARTSTAR. THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN UNDERMINED. ALL TO TAKE YOU DOWN.
AND NOW I HAVE.
YOU--
I--
YOU LITTLE [illegible].

YEAH, YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
BECAUSE I AM THAT
HEY, WHAT DID I MISS?
DO YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?
DO YOU THINK THAT THIS WILL SET ME BACK AT ALL?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF THE RESOURCES AT MY COMMAND.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
SO YOU DESTROYED MY MONSTERS.
I'LL JUST MAKE MORE.
MAYBE.
BUT NOT HERE.

BRA-KOOM!!!
MUSIC TO MY EARS.

THE GOOD NEWS: I DID AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB.
THE BAD NEWS?
I DID AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB.

MONICA, MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN PREDICTS THAT OUR CHANCES OF GETTING OUT BEFORE THIS FACILITY COLLAPSES ON US ARE, UH, MINIMAL.
WHO'S "WE," MACHINE MAN?

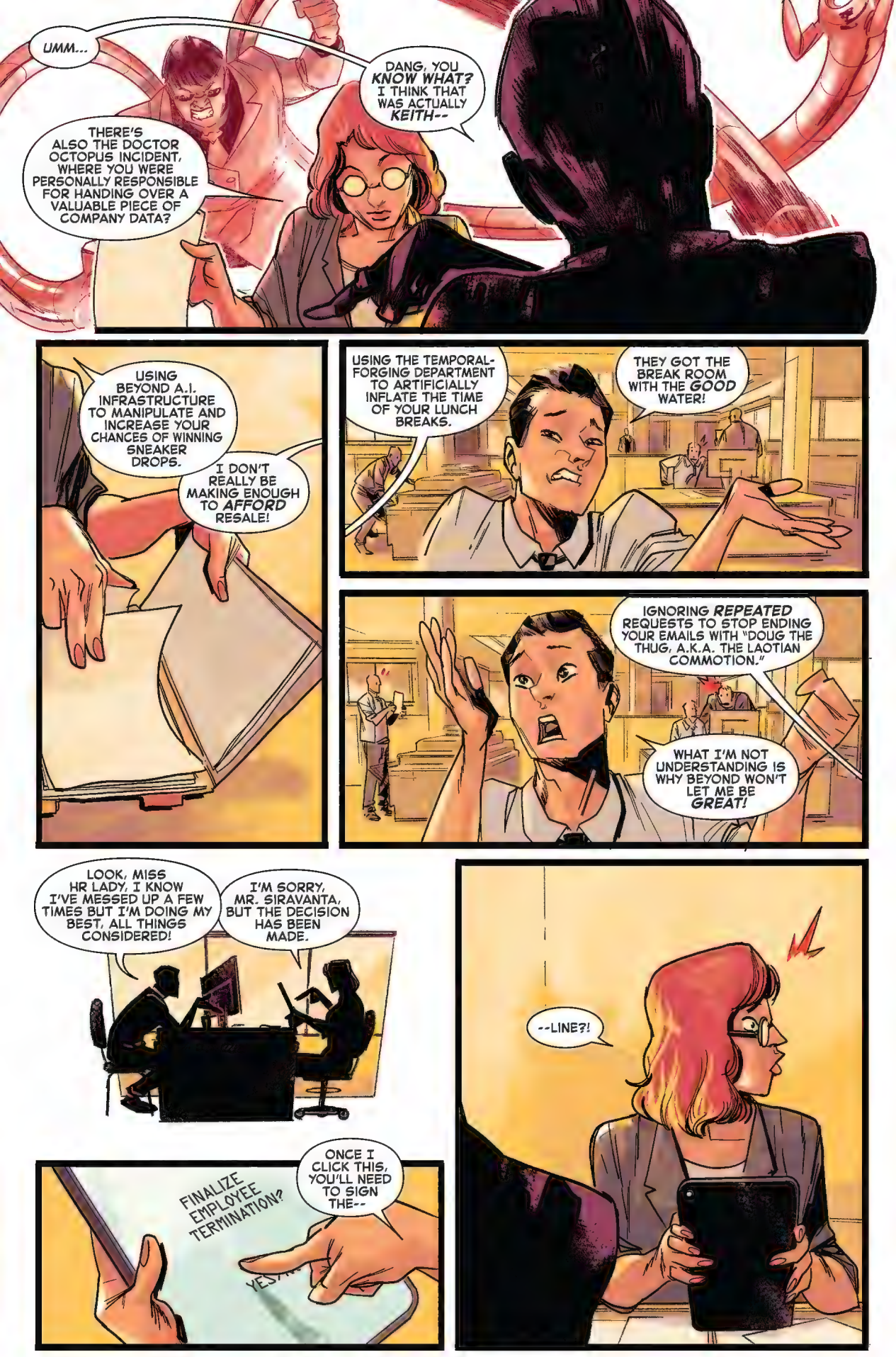
ONE OF US CAN FLY AT LIGHTSPEED, REMEMBER?
OH, NO--
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE--?
MONICA, PLEASE, AUNTIE MONICA, MY FAVORITE FLESHY ONE, AVENGERS CHAIRWOMAN CAPTAIN MARVEL--

HAHA!
RELAX, AARON.

AUNTIE MONICA'S GOT SOMETHING SHE'S BEEN SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY.
KI-BOOM!
GAAAAAHHH!
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A BABY.
WELL, THAT WAS FUN.
HMM. YEAH.
SO NOW WHAT, FLESHY ONE?
WELL, BEYOND'S STILL GOT LOTS OF MAD-SCIENCE SITES...

...HOW ABOUT WE GO ON AND DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?

BEYOND HQ.
IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS WHY YOUR BRIEF TIME AT BEYOND HAS *LED* TO THIS TERMINATION AND EXIT INTERVIEW.
I WANNA LET YOU SPEAK, HR LADY, BUT FIRST OFF, I NEED TO SPEAK POWER TO MY TRUTH!
YOU SEE, THE THING ABOUT YOU GETTING READY TO ***FIRE*** ME IS THAT YOU ***SHOULDN'T***.
...
'CAUSE, YOU KNOW, ALL THE COMPANY RESOURCES BEYOND USED UP ON ACCOUNT OF MY GETTING KIDNAPPED BY KRAVEN ISN'T EVEN REALLY ON ME. LIKE, THAT SHOULD BE ***HIS*** FAULT, YOU KNOW.
MR. SIRAVANTA--
MA'AM, ***RESPECTFULLY***, IMMA NEED YOU TO CALL ME "DOUG." ALSO, I'M STILL IN THE PROCESS OF LETTING YOU SPEAK, BUT I JUST NEED TO FINISH PLEADING MY CASE FIRST.
WHERE WAS I? OH YEAH.
SO I, LIKE, I KNOW BEYOND BRASS WAS HOT ON ACCOUNT OF ME GETTING KIDNAPPED, BUT YOU SEE, IF I DIDN'T ***ALLOW*** MYSELF TO GET DRUNK AT THAT NEW HIRE MIXER TO DRAW KRAVEN OUT, THEN SPIDER-MAN NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP HIM. SEE, I GOT ***THE VISION***. I'M TALKING ***FIFTH DIMENSIONAL CHESS*** HERE.
IS THIS THE SAME "VISION" THAT TOLD YOU TO STEAL EXPERIMENTAL EQUILIBRIUM MEDICINE FROM R&D SO YOU COULD, AND I QUOTE, "HELP MY BOY SPIDEY GET HIS MIND RIGHT"?
SEE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS, I DIDN'T STEAL ***ANYTHING***, 'CAUSE THEY WERE ***GIVEN*** TO ME!
BY WHO?
UM, DANG--I'M ACTUALLY BLANKIN' ON HIS NAME RIGHT NOW, BUT HE HAD A KIND SPIRIT. HE GAVE 'EM TO ME AT THE BAR.
YOU TOOK UNVETTED PILLS FROM A STRANGER AT A BAR AND THEN GAVE THEM TO SPIDER-MAN? OUR ***FLAGSHIP PROGRAM***?


UMM...
THERE'S ALSO THE DOCTOR OCTOPUS INCIDENT, WHERE YOU WERE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDING OVER A VALUABLE PIECE OF COMPANY DATA?
DANG, YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK THAT WAS ACTUALLY KEITH--
USING BEYOND A.I. INFRASTRUCTURE TO MANIPULATE AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING SNEAKER DROPS.
I DON'T REALLY BE MAKING ENOUGH TO AFFORD RESALE!
USING THE TEMPORAL-FORGING DEPARTMENT TO ARTIFICIALLY INFLATE THE TIME OF YOUR LUNCH BREAKS.
THEY GOT THE BREAK ROOM WITH THE GOOD WATER!
IGNORING REPEATED REQUESTS TO STOP ENDING YOUR EMAILS WITH "DOUG THE THUG, A.K.A. THE LAOTIAN COMMOTION."
WHAT I'M NOT UNDERSTANDING IS WHY BEYOND WON'T LET ME BE GREAT!
LOOK, MISS HR LADY, I KNOW I'VE MESSED UP A FEW TIMES BUT I'M DOING MY BEST, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED!
I'M SORRY, MR. SIRAVANTA, BUT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
--LINE?!
ONCE I CLICK THIS, YOU'LL NEED TO SIGN THE--
FINALIZE EMPLOYEE TERMINATION?
YES/...

EXIT CALMLY AND
ASE REFER TO YOUR
PLOYEE HANDBOOK.
YOND LOVES YOU.
IS THAT A QUESTION OR A STATEMENT? 'CAUSE, LIKE, IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE ASKING A QUESTION, BUT, LIKE, THEN I WAS THINKING, "WAIT A MINUTE, DOUG, THIS HAS BIG *STATEMENT ENERGY.*"
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
YEAH, LIKE, *THAT'S* A STATEMENT. NOW I HAVE ZERO CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS A PROCLAMATION-- HEY, *WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!*
FINALIZE EMPLOYEE TERMINATION?
YES/NO

GULP
CLICK
EMPLOYEE PROMOTION COMPLETE.

LOWER LEVELS.
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM AT THE CORPORATE LEVEL. I KNOW WHEN I OFFERED A PLACE IN BEYOND'S HERO DIVISION THERE WAS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT DEFENDING THE WEAK...
..BUT THERE WAS ALSO SOME FINE PRINT ABOUT PROTECTING BEYOND ASSETS.
THAT'S THE PERTINENT INFORMATION HERE.
I READ THE FINE PRINT, MAXINE. I'M VERY CLOSE WITH A LAWYER.
WHATEVER YOUR PROBLEM IS, WE'RE HUNGRY TO DO SOME GOOD.
...JUST POINT THE SLINGERS TOWARD THE BAD GUY.
I LOVE YOUR CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED ENTHUSIASM, HORNET.
FOLLOW ME.

WHOA...
SOMEBODY'S ANGRY.
NO. SOMEONE'S HURTING VERY BADLY.
VERY DEEPLY.
SHHH NOW.
SOME THINGS ARE BETTER IF YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM TOO MUCH.
MAXINE, THIS ISN'T A JOKE TO US. TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON.
TAKE A PEEK FOR YOURSELF. BYE NOW.
HI THERE...

...YOU NEXT?
OH, #$%&.

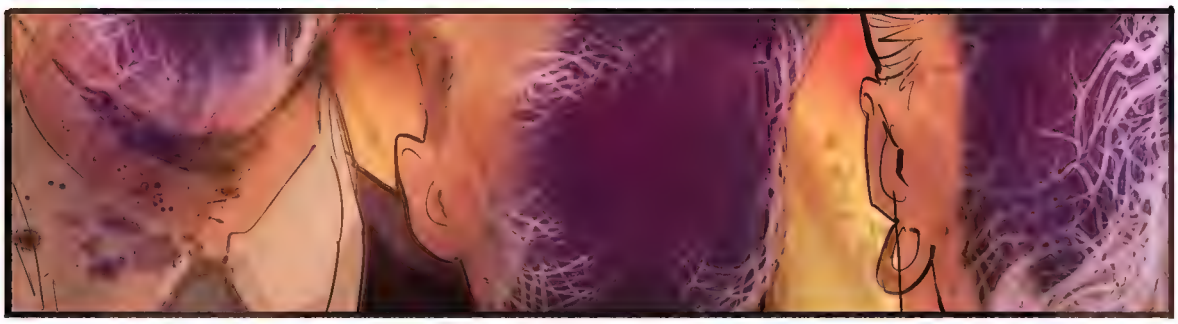
EPILOGUE 1.
THEY CHANGED ME.
I TRY TO REMEMBER WHO I WAS.
I HAD A LIFE. IT WASN'T PERFECT. BUT IT WAS MINE.
BUT EVERY TIME I HONE IN ON WHO I USED TO BE, EVERY TIME I PICK AT THOSE MEMORIES LIKE A SCAB...
THE LAUGHTER WASHES IT ALL AWAY.
HEH...
...EHEHEHEH...
HA HA HA HA HA HA
I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING.
WHENEVER I TRY, THE LAUGHTER JUST ECHOES AROUND INSIDE OF MY SKULL. AND THEN ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS HURTING PEOPLE.
HURTING SPIDER-MAN.

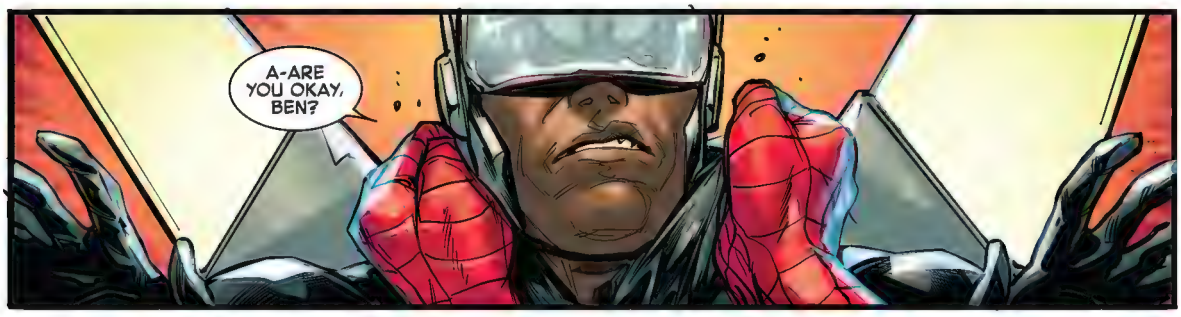
BECAUSE WHAT THEY DID TO ME. WHAT THEY PUT IN ME. THE STUFF THAT MADE ME INTO THIS. THAT MAKES ME WANT TO HURT PEOPLE. TO HURT SPIDER-MAN...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
...IT'S NOT MINE. IT NEVER WAS.
IT'S HIS.
NORMAN OSBORN'S.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HE THINKS HE'S FREE OF THE GOBLIN. THAT HE CAN LIVE HIS HAPPY LIFE.
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA
BUT I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM HE CAN'T JUST PASS OFF HIS SINS. I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM...
...NO ONE WALKS AWAY.
SHRRKKK

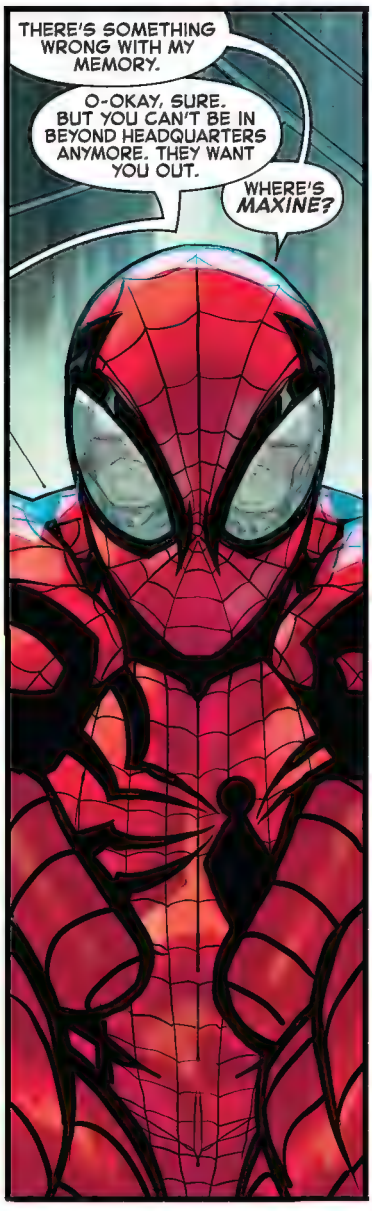
EPILOGUE 2.
BEYOND STATEN ISLAND.
(Or What's Left Of It.)
KRRRNCHHH
I SAW SOMETHING OUT THERE.
ONE OF THEIR "PRODUCTS." A CHIMERA OF MY OWN CONDITION AND ANOTHER WORK OF GENIUS, UNEXPECTED THOUGH ITS EFFECTS MAY HAVE BEEN.
THIS PIQUED MY INTEREST. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, IF THE BEYOND TEAM COULD MAKE SUCH AN INTERESTING CREATURE WITH OUR UNIQUE CONDITIONS, FLAWED THOUGH IT WAS...
...WHAT MIRACLES COULD THE ORIGINALS PRODUCE BY WORKING TOGETHER?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, DR. CONNORS?
SHALL WE MAKE MIRACLES?

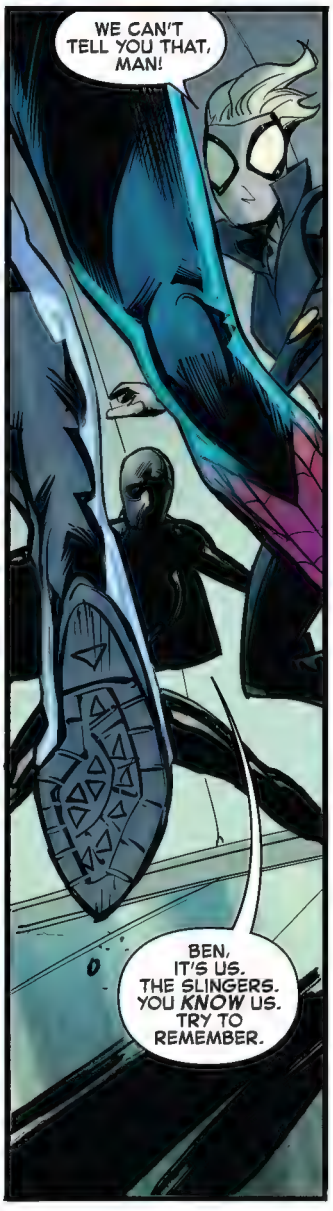
YOU WERE SPIDER-MAN THEN. YOU AND PETER HAD AGREED ON IT.
BUT HE CAME BACK RIGHT WHEN YOU STARTED FEELING COMFORTABLE.
YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS WHEN HE COMES BACK.
SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL, PETER--? WHAT IS THIS JOB ONLY I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT YOUR SPIDER-STRENGTH BACK, EVEN IF IT IS SPORADIC...
OH, BRO, YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. I DON'T NEED YOUR MUSCLE.
MARY JANE AND I WANT TO MAKE SOME ROOM...
MARY JANE. WAS SHE HERE? NO. YOU'RE CONFUSED.
YOU'RE IN ANOTHER ATTIC. PETER'S LAB. YOU WERE THE SCARLET SPIDER.
SHE WAS SAD, AND YOU KNEW IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU.
SHE WASN'T SAD FOR LONG.
THIS IS PETER'S LIFE!
AND YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!

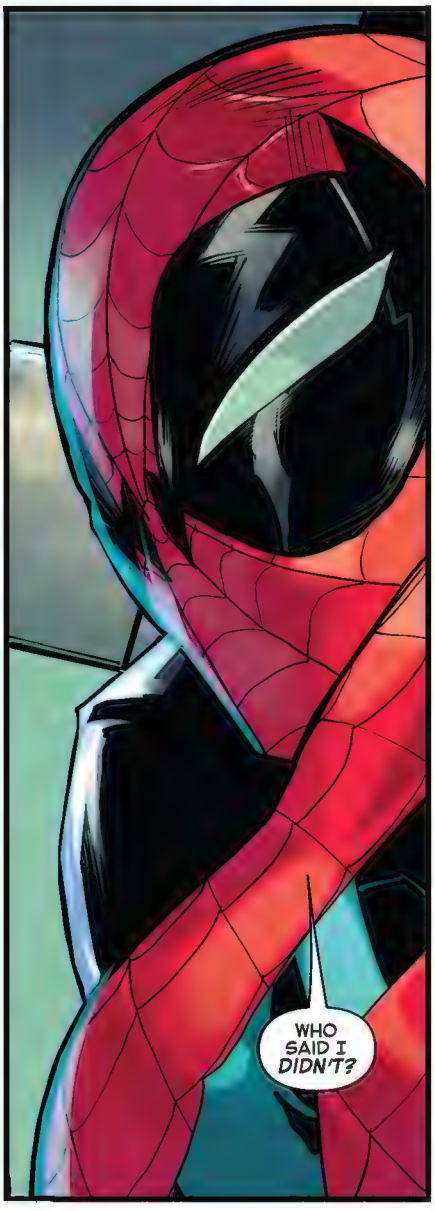
YOU'RE BACK IN THE ATTIC NOW. THE OTHER ATTIC.
WE JUST NEED TO GET RID OF SOME OF THIS STUFF.
YOU DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT BEING THERE WITH ALL OF THE PHOTOS *HIS* PHOTOS.
YOU DIDN'T WANT PETER TO SEE HOW BADLY YOU *WANTED* THEM.
YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM TO KNOW THAT MARY JANE WAS RIGHT.
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SWING BACK IN HERE AND CLAIM THE LIFE THAT'S RIGHTFULLY YOURS?!
YOU'RE VERY CONFUSED. WHEN WAS THIS?
DON'T BE SHY, BEN...
...THEY'RE *YOUR* MEMORIES TOO.



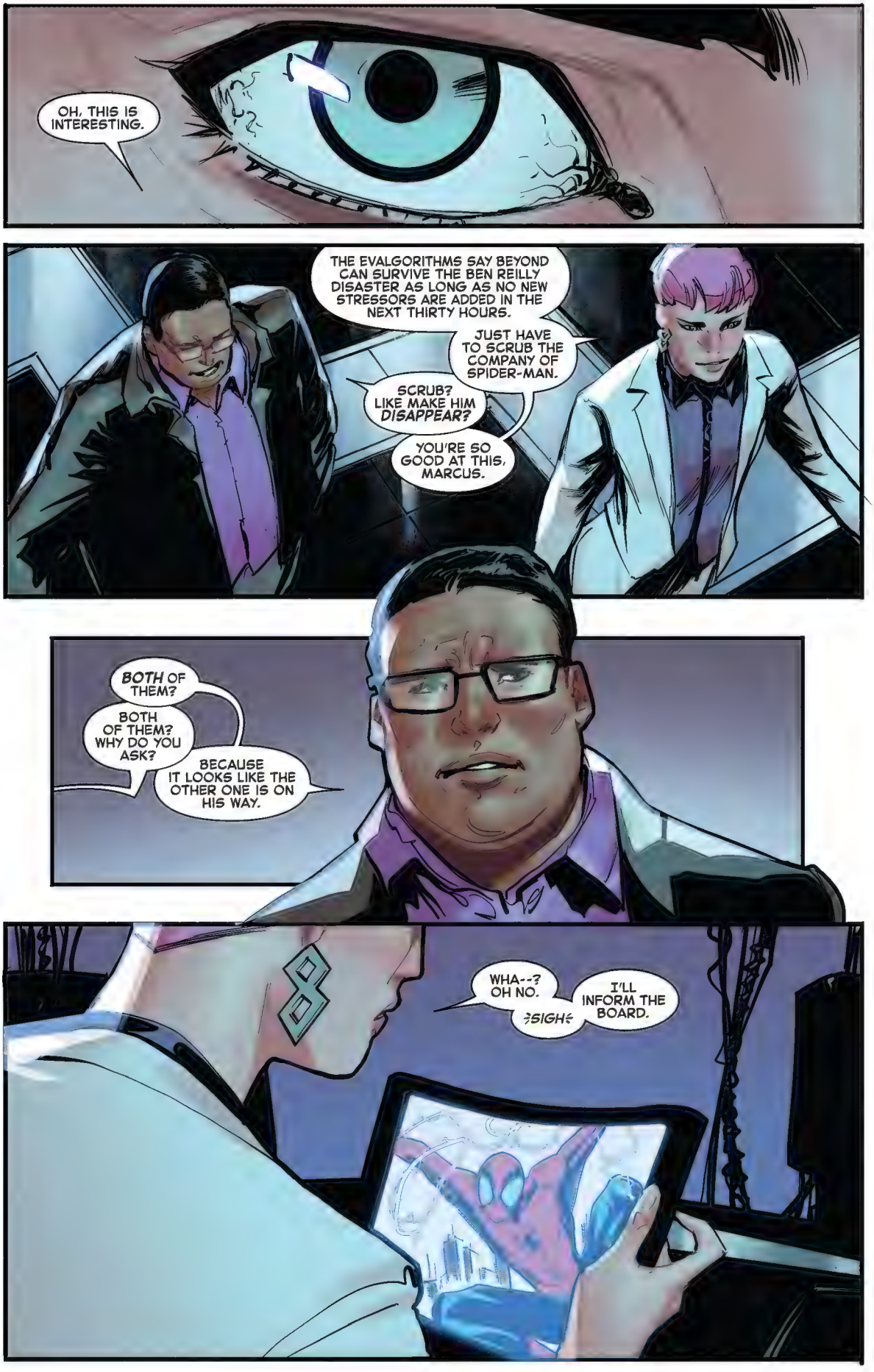

A-ARE YOU OKAY, BEN?


THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY MEMORY.
O-OKAY, SURE. BUT YOU CAN'T BE IN BEYOND HEADQUARTERS ANYMORE. THEY WANT YOU OUT.
WHERE'S *MAXINE?*

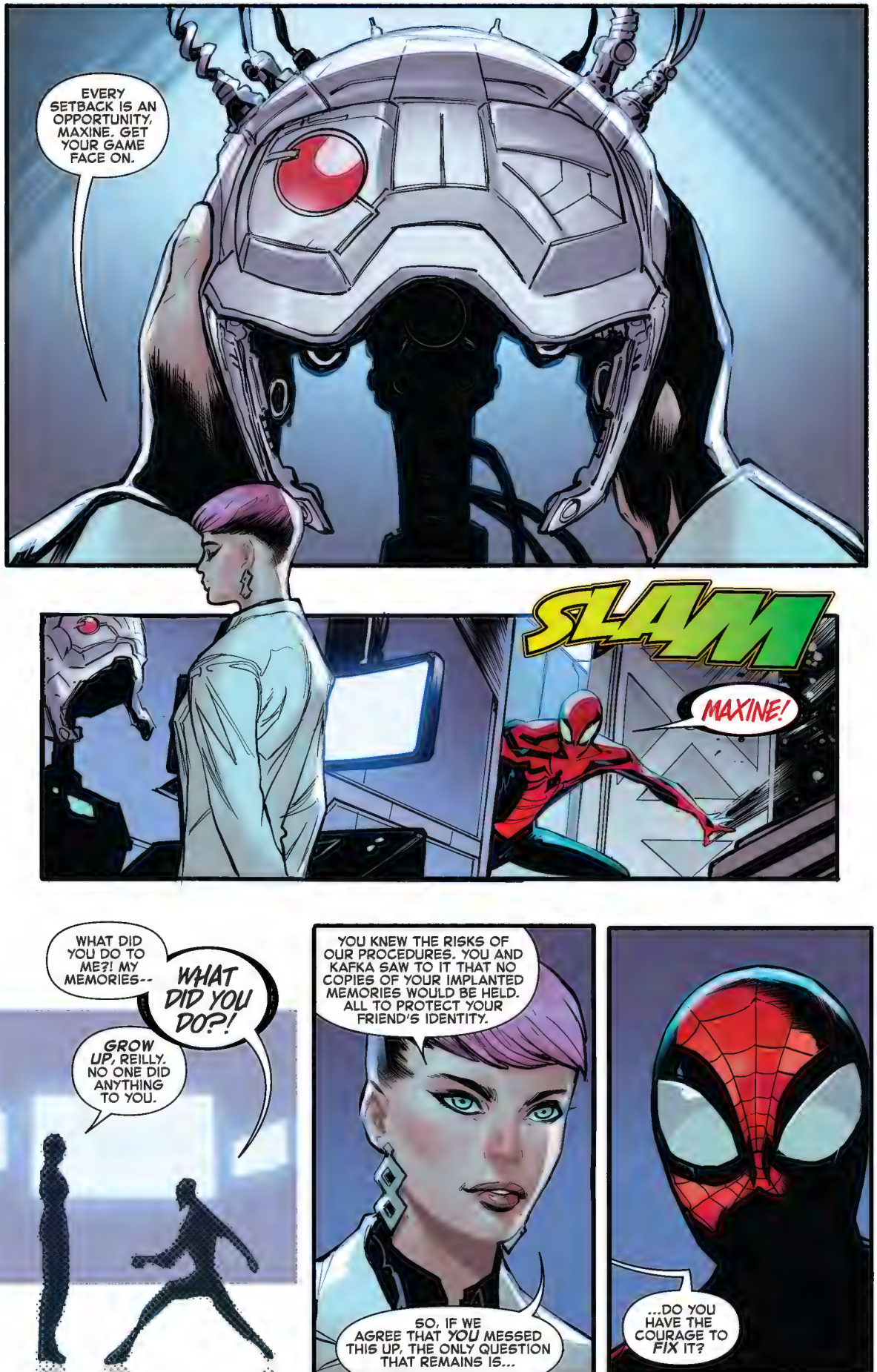

WE CAN'T TELL YOU THAT, MAN!
BEN, IT'S US. THE SLINGERS. YOU *KNOW* US. TRY TO REMEMBER.


WHO SAID I *DIDN'T?*

GRAARGHH!


OH, THIS IS INTERESTING.
THE EVALGORITHMS SAY BEYOND CAN SURVIVE THE BEN REILLY DISASTER AS LONG AS NO NEW STRESSORS ARE ADDED IN THE NEXT THIRTY HOURS.
JUST HAVE TO SCRUB THE COMPANY OF SPIDER-MAN.
SCRUB? LIKE MAKE HIM *DISAPPEAR?*
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THIS, MARCUS.
BOTH OF THEM?
BOTH OF THEM? WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER ONE IS ON HIS WAY.
WHA--? OH NO.
SIGH
I'LL INFORM THE BOARD.

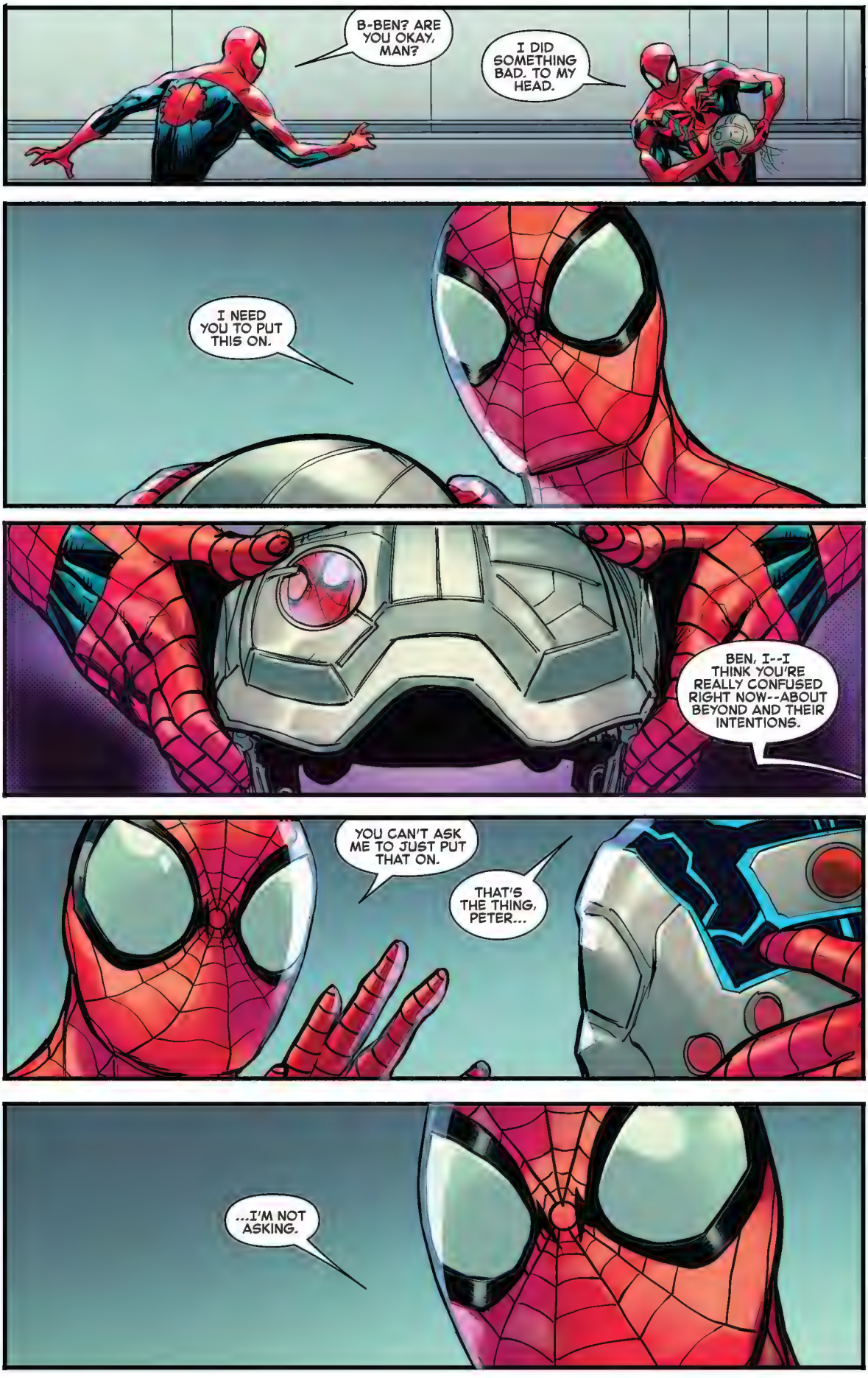
I'M HERE.
PETER, BE CAREFUL. I KNOW YOU'RE MAD BEN LEFT ME TO...
...TO FEND FOR MYSELF AGAINST QUEEN GOBLIN, BUT HE WASN'T HIMSELF. I THINK HE'S HURTING.
IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING.
DON'T BE COLD, PETER. IT'S NOT YOU.
NO, I MEAN... I'VE GOT TROUBLE.
TALK SOON.
SPRK
SPRK
V-V-VOICE V-V-VERIFIED.
HEAT SIGNATURE V-VERIFIED.
BODY S-S-SCENT VERIFIED.
ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.
WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.
THANK YOU?


EVERY SETBACK IS AN OPPORTUNITY, MAXINE. GET YOUR GAME FACE ON.
SLAM
MAXINE!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?! MY MEMORIES--
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
GROW UP, REILLY. NO ONE DID ANYTHING TO YOU.
YOU KNEW THE RISKS OF OUR PROCEDURES. YOU AND KAFKA SAW TO IT THAT NO COPIES OF YOUR IMPLANTED MEMORIES WOULD BE HELD. ALL TO PROTECT YOUR FRIEND'S IDENTITY.
SO, IF WE AGREE THAT YOU MESSED THIS UP, THE ONLY QUESTION THAT REMAINS IS...
...DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO FIX IT?

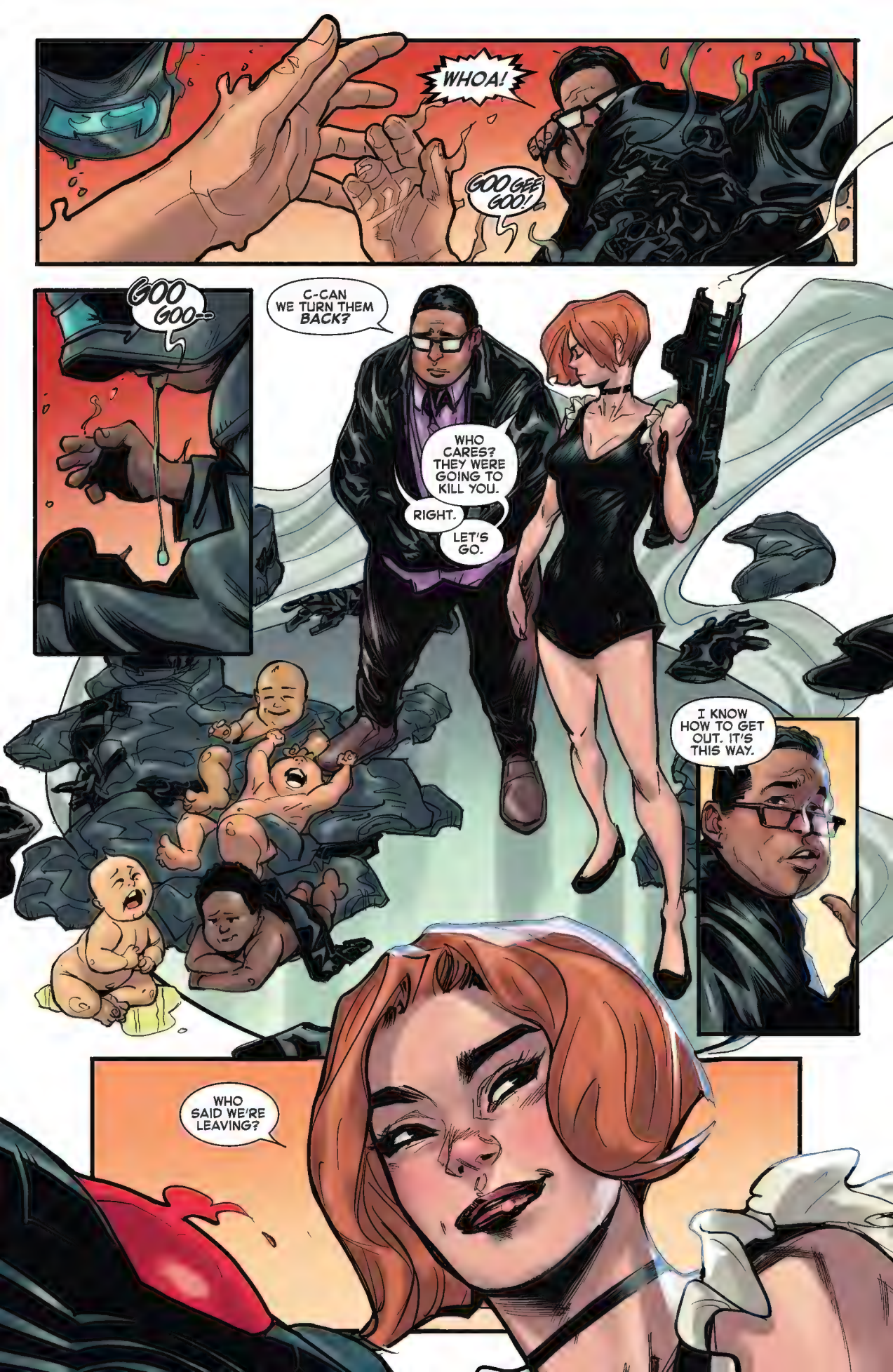
IF YOU WANT TO HEAL YOURSELF, HE HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED. THE MEMORIES YOU'VE LOST, GREEDILY HOARDED IN HIS BRAIN.
WE KNOW FROM STUDYING YOUR MIND WHERE THE OLD MEMORIES ARE HELD. THIS MACHINE CAN TAKE THEM FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCE. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY'RE PUT BACK WHERE THEY BELONG.
SURELY, HE'LL HELP YOU. AND IF HE DOESN'T...
...WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HE'S MY FRIEND.
HE'S MY FRIEND!
IS HE? I'M OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO BE WHOLE AGAIN. WILL HE DO THE SAME? AND IF NOT, DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE HIM?
AFTER ALL...
...THEY'RE YOUR MEMORIES TOO.

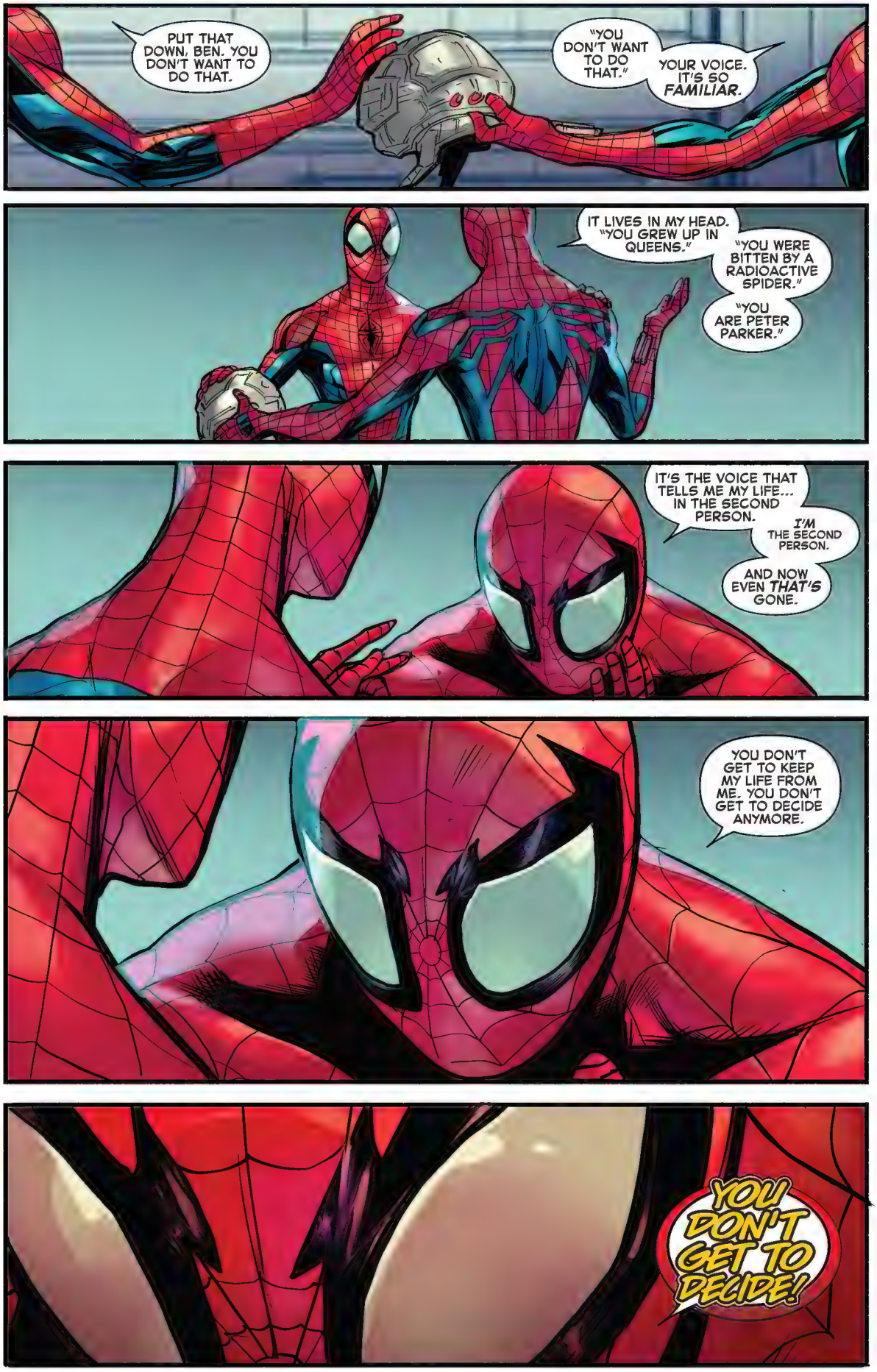
THERE. THAT SHOULD KEEP OUR SPIDER-MEN BUSY WHILE I SHUTTER OUR OPERATIONS HERE.
MARCUS?
Y-YES, MAXINE?
YOU'VE BEEN OF GREAT SERVICE TO ME. I'VE ORDERED THE KILL TEAM TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT. NO ALCOHOL INVOLVED, WHICH HAS A HIGHER LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY AND CARRIES MORE RISK, SO I HOPE YOU SEE IT AS THE REWARD IT IS.
OPEN CASKET. YOUR FAMILY WON'T BE ASHAMED.
MAXINE, DON'T DO THIS.
I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF OUR TIME TOGETHER. DON'T RUIN IT NOW WITH THE POOPY FACE.
BUT--
GOODBYE, MARCUS.

HE'S HERE! WHAT DO WE DO?!
GRAB THE INFANTILIZER!
GUYS! I'M JUST LOOKING FOR MY FRIEND.
GOTTA SAY, YOUR REACTION HAS ME WONDERING WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN UP TO IN HERE.
WHO TOOK THE INFANTILIZER?!
THIS IS WHY WE HAVE PROTOCOLS, DAMM--
GAHHH!!!
UGH!!!
BAM!
BAM!
BEN?!
HI, PETER.


B-BEN? ARE YOU OKAY, MAN?
I DID SOMETHING BAD. TO MY HEAD.
I NEED YOU TO PUT THIS ON.
BEN, I--I THINK YOU'RE REALLY CONFUSED RIGHT NOW--ABOUT BEYOND AND THEIR INTENTIONS.
YOU CAN'T ASK ME TO JUST PUT THAT ON.
THAT'S THE THING, PETER...
...I'M NOT ASKING.

SO, HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELVES ON A "KILL SQUAD," ANYWAY? IS THAT SOMETHING YOU SIGN UP FOR?
OR DO THEY TRICK YOU? YOU THINK YOU'RE WORKING SECURITY AND THEN THEY'RE LIKE, "SURPRISE! KILL SQUAD."
SHUT UP, MARCUS.
JANINE?
SHE'S GOT A--
IT'S A--
WHAT IS THAT?
THE LABEL SAID IT WAS AN INFANTILIZER.
LET ME KNOW HOW IT TASTES.
SSSHZZLARKK!

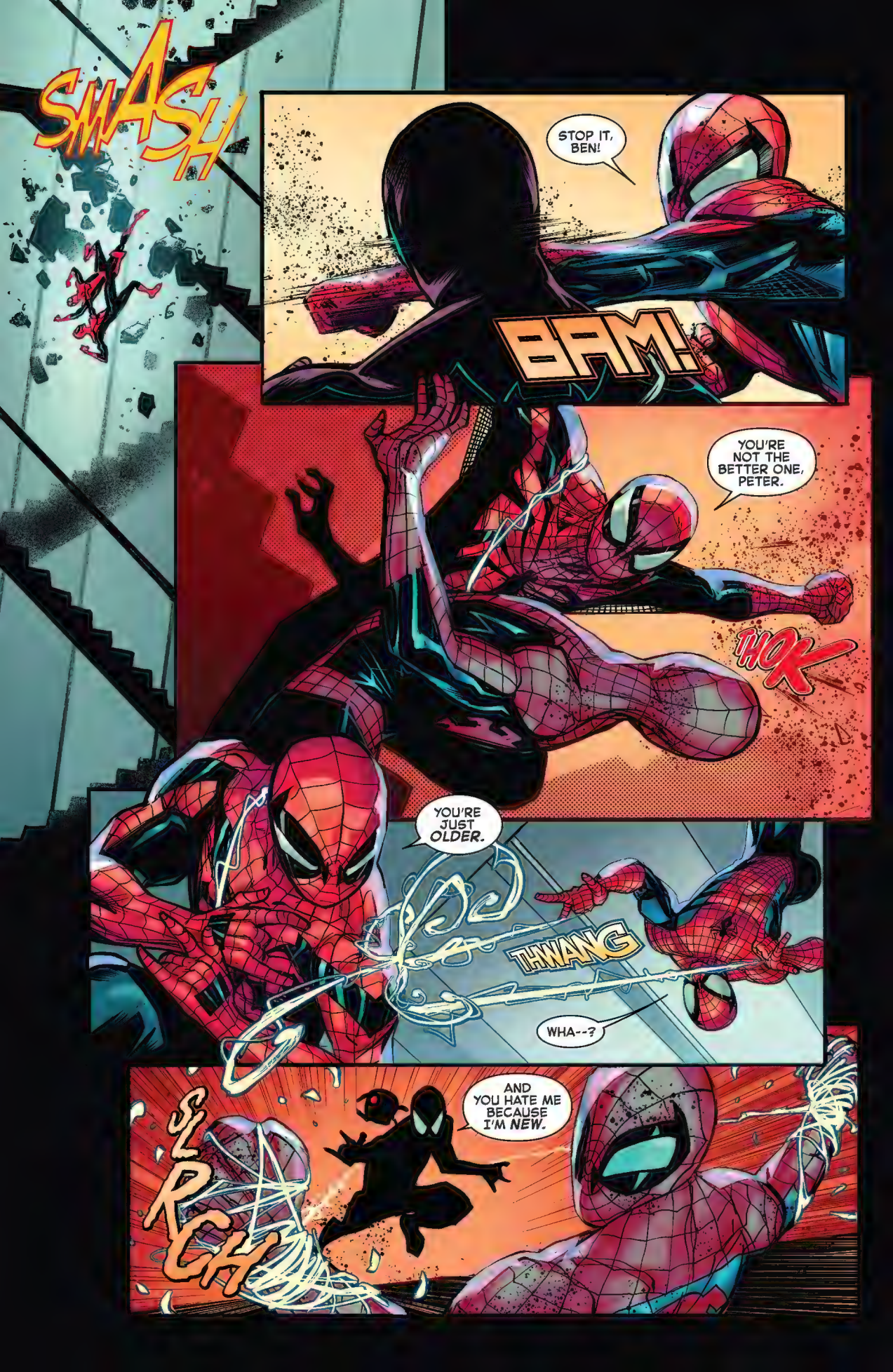

WHOA!
GOO GEE GOO!
GOO GOO--
C-CAN WE TURN THEM BACK?
WHO CARES? THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU.
RIGHT.
LET'S GO.
I KNOW HOW TO GET OUT. IT'S THIS WAY.
WHO SAID WE'RE LEAVING?


PUT THAT DOWN, BEN. YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT.
"YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT."
YOUR VOICE. IT'S SO FAMILIAR.
IT LIVES IN MY HEAD. "YOU GREW UP IN QUEENS."
"YOU WERE BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER."
"YOU ARE PETER PARKER."
IT'S THE VOICE THAT TELLS ME MY LIFE... IN THE SECOND PERSON.
I'M THE SECOND PERSON.
AND NOW EVEN THAT'S GONE.
YOU DON'T GET TO KEEP MY LIFE FROM ME. YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE ANYMORE.
YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE!

БАМ!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.
BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL HURT.
NO, BECAUSE YOU ARE!
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO HELP ME!
ALL I'VE EVER WANTED IS TO HELP YOU!
GWARRRRRGHHH!

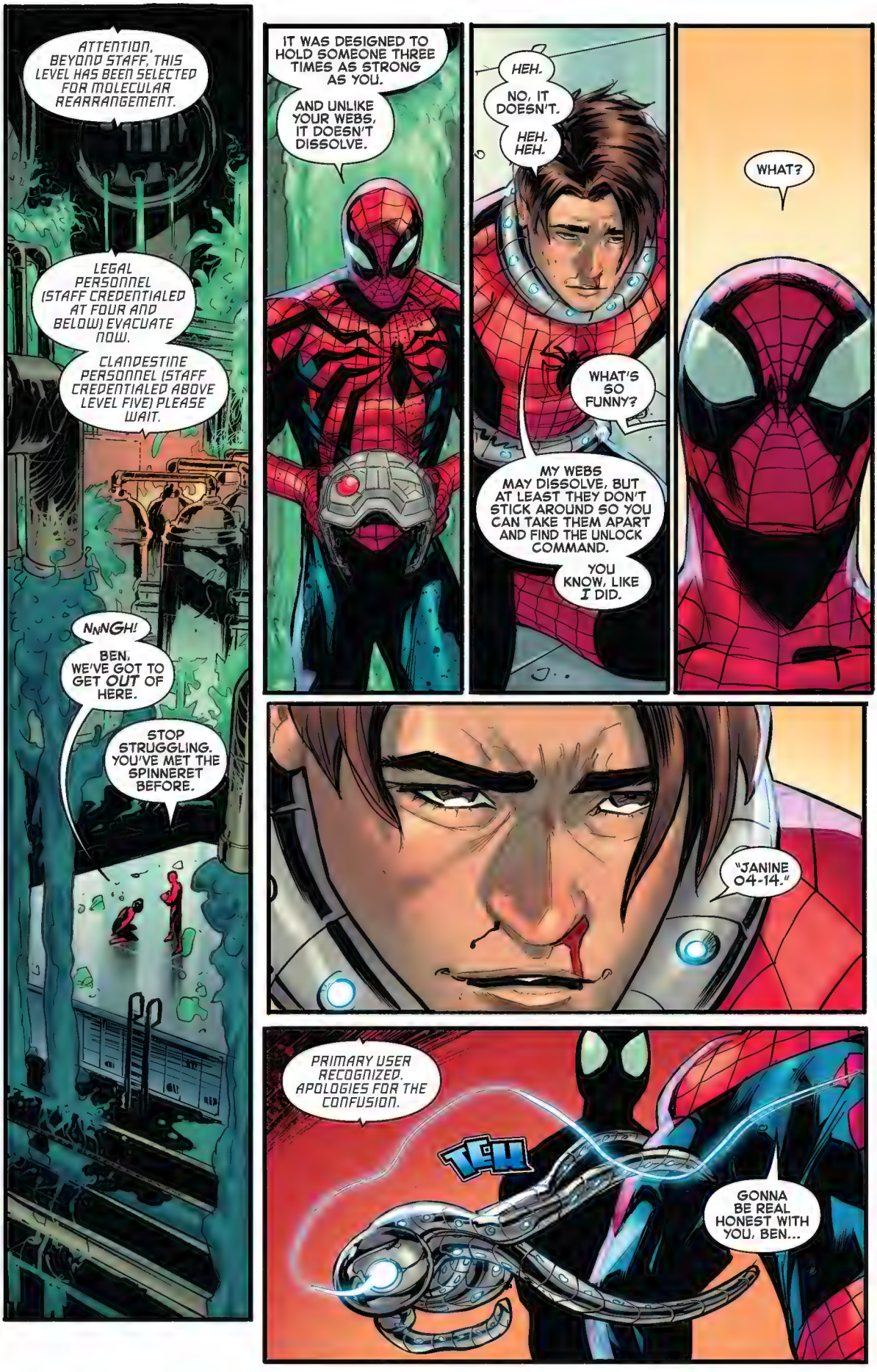
APPROVED.
APPROVED.
APPROVED.
APPROVED.
IT'S DONE, MAXINE. LIQUIDATE THE LOWER LEVELS.
THE BOARD HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THIS FACILITY--WE HAD JUST BEGUN TO EXPLOIT PROJECT PURGATORY--YOUR FAILURE HAS COST US DEARLY.
THIS FAILURE WILL ONLY TEST THE EFFICACY OF OUR PROGRAMS. WE'LL KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL THE VALUE OF OUR PRODUCT.
YES...IF ONLY YOU WERE GOING TO BE ALIVE TO SEE IT.
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
SHIZZARK
DAMMIT, MAXINE! HOLOGRAPHIC DECOYS ARE RESERVED FOR THE BOARD. THIS IS ACTIONABLE!
OOH! I HOPE I DON'T GET FIRED!
GOODBYE, GENTLEMEN. PRAY I DON'T VISIT YOU FOR AN EXIT INTERVIEW.


SMASH
STOP IT, BEN!
BAM!
YOU'RE NOT THE BETTER ONE, PETER.
THOK
YOU'RE JUST OLDER.
THWANG
WHA--?
AND YOU HATE ME BECAUSE I'M NEW.
SLRCH

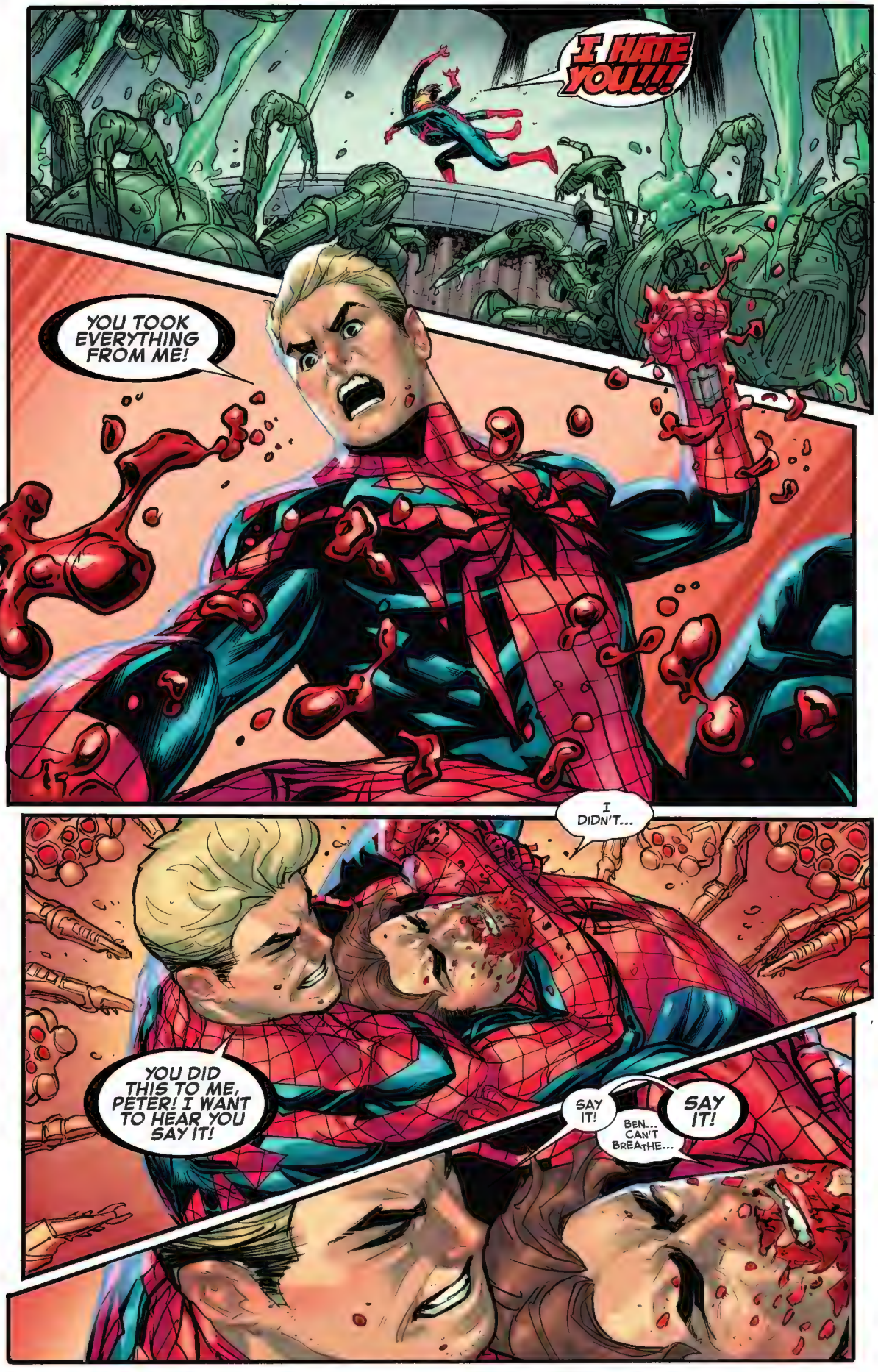
AND I'M TIRED OF GETTING OUT OF THE WAY.
WASH
CRACK!
I DON'T HATE YOU!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE IMPACT POLYMERS OR THE FACT YOU'VE BEEN IN A COMA FOR THREE MONTHS, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THAT.
M-ME NEITHER.
CRACK

I JUST WANT WHAT'S MINE, PETER.
DEPLOY SPINNERET.
WHA--?
PLEASE RELAX.
YOU WILL BE RELEASED IN ONE HOUR. PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE.
YOUR LIFE. IT MUST BE NICE.
HNNG...
THEN WHY DO I HAVE TO MAKE YOU?
BEN, WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT. I WANT TO HELP YOU.

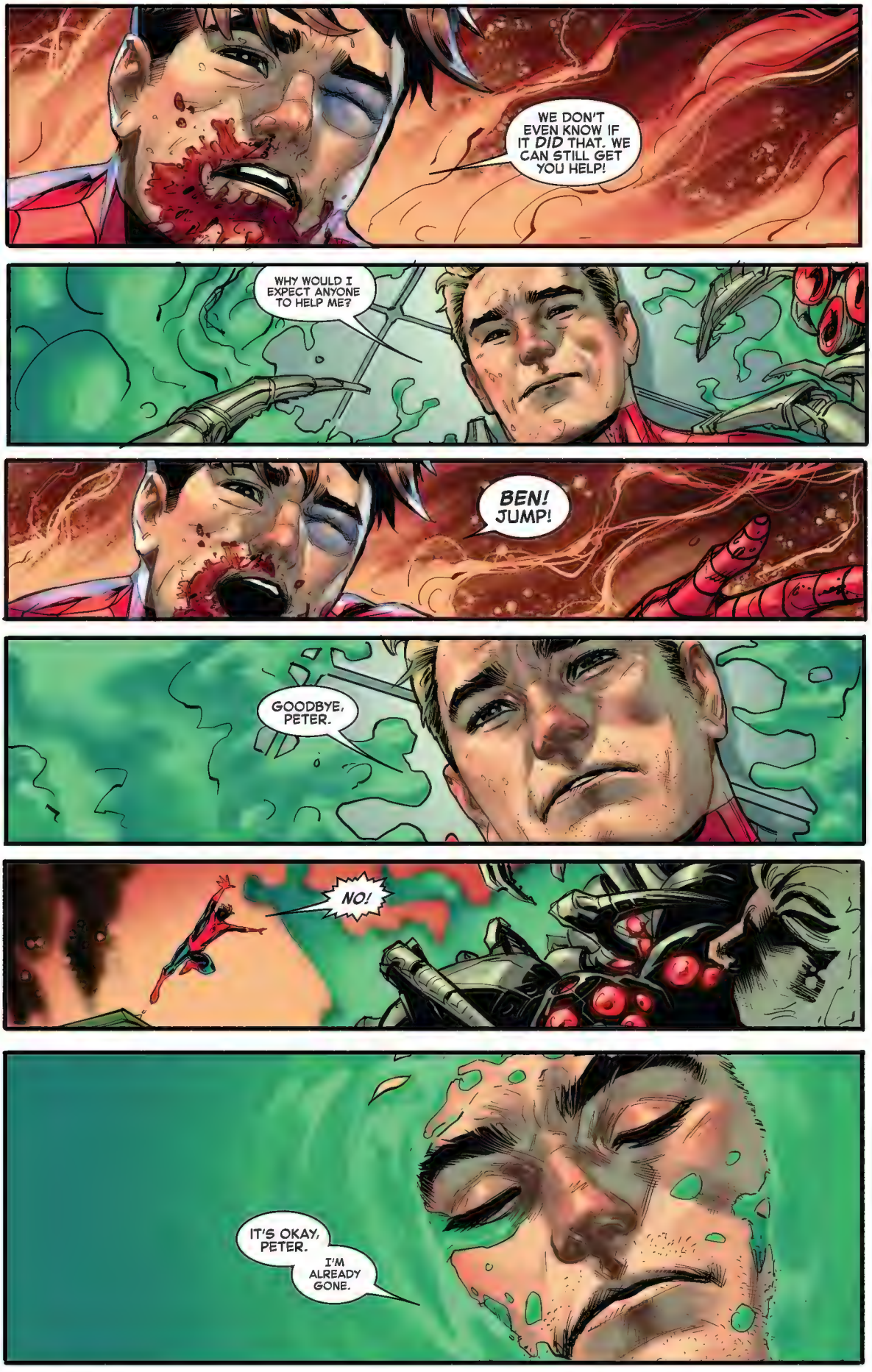
MAXINE!
SHE'S GONE.
THAT'S NOT GOOD. SHE NEVER LEAVES.
OH NO...
QUANTUM-SHIFTING POLYMERS IN A PSYCHO-REACTIVE MEDIUM.
SCRUB IN PROGRESS...
SCRUB IN PROGRESS? WHAT'S A SCRUB IN PROGRESS?
SHE'S FLOODING THE LOWER LEVELS WITH QUANTUM-SHIFTING POLYMERS IN A PSYCHO-REACTIVE MEDIUM. IT'S A GOO THAT CONFUSES AND REWRITES MATTER. DESTROYS EVIDENCE.
AND PEOPLE?
NOT GREAT FOR THEM EITHER.
HELP ME FIND BEN.


ATTENTION. BEYOND STAFF, THIS LEVEL HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR MOLECULAR REARRANGEMENT.
LEGAL PERSONNEL (STAFF CREDENTIALED AT FOUR AND BELOW) EVACUATE NOW.
CLANDESTINE PERSONNEL (STAFF CREDENTIALED ABOVE LEVEL FIVE) PLEASE WAIT.
NNNGH!
BEN, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
STOP STRUGGLING. YOU'VE MET THE SPINNERET BEFORE.
IT WAS DESIGNED TO HOLD SOMEONE THREE TIMES AS STRONG AS YOU.
AND UNLIKE YOUR WEBS, IT DOESN'T DISSOLVE.
HEH.
NO, IT DOESN'T.
HEH. HEH.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
MY WEBS MAY DISSOLVE, BUT AT LEAST THEY DON'T STICK AROUND SO YOU CAN TAKE THEM APART AND FIND THE UNLOCK COMMAND.
YOU KNOW, LIKE I DID.
WHAT?
"JANINE 04-14."
PRIMARY USER RECOGNIZED. APOLOGIES FOR THE CONFUSION.
TEH
GONNA BE REAL HONEST WITH YOU, BEN...

...I'M SICK OF YOUR GADGETS!
SMASH
NO...
THAT'S IT, THEN...
...I'M GONE.
I'M NOTHING.
BEN, THERE'S NO WAY THAT HELMET ACTUALLY--
WE CAN GET YOU--
I'M NOTHING!


I HATE YOU!!!
YOU TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!
I DIDN'T...
YOU DID THIS TO ME, PETER! I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT!
SAY IT!
BEN... CAN'T BREATHE...
SAY IT!

BEYOND SUB-BASEMENT SELF-SCRUB-INITIATED. ALL LEGAL PERSONNEL SHOULD SEEK SAFETY NOW.
UNGH!
CLANDESTINE PERSONNEL, PLEASE BREATHE CALMLY AND KNOW SACRIFICES LIKE YOURS HAVE MADE BEYOND ONE OF THE MOST TRUSTED BRANDS IN THE WORLD.
THUD
SAY IT...
BEN!
YOU HAVE IT ALL, PETER. ALL THE PARTS I'M MISSING.
I JUST WANTED THEM BACK.

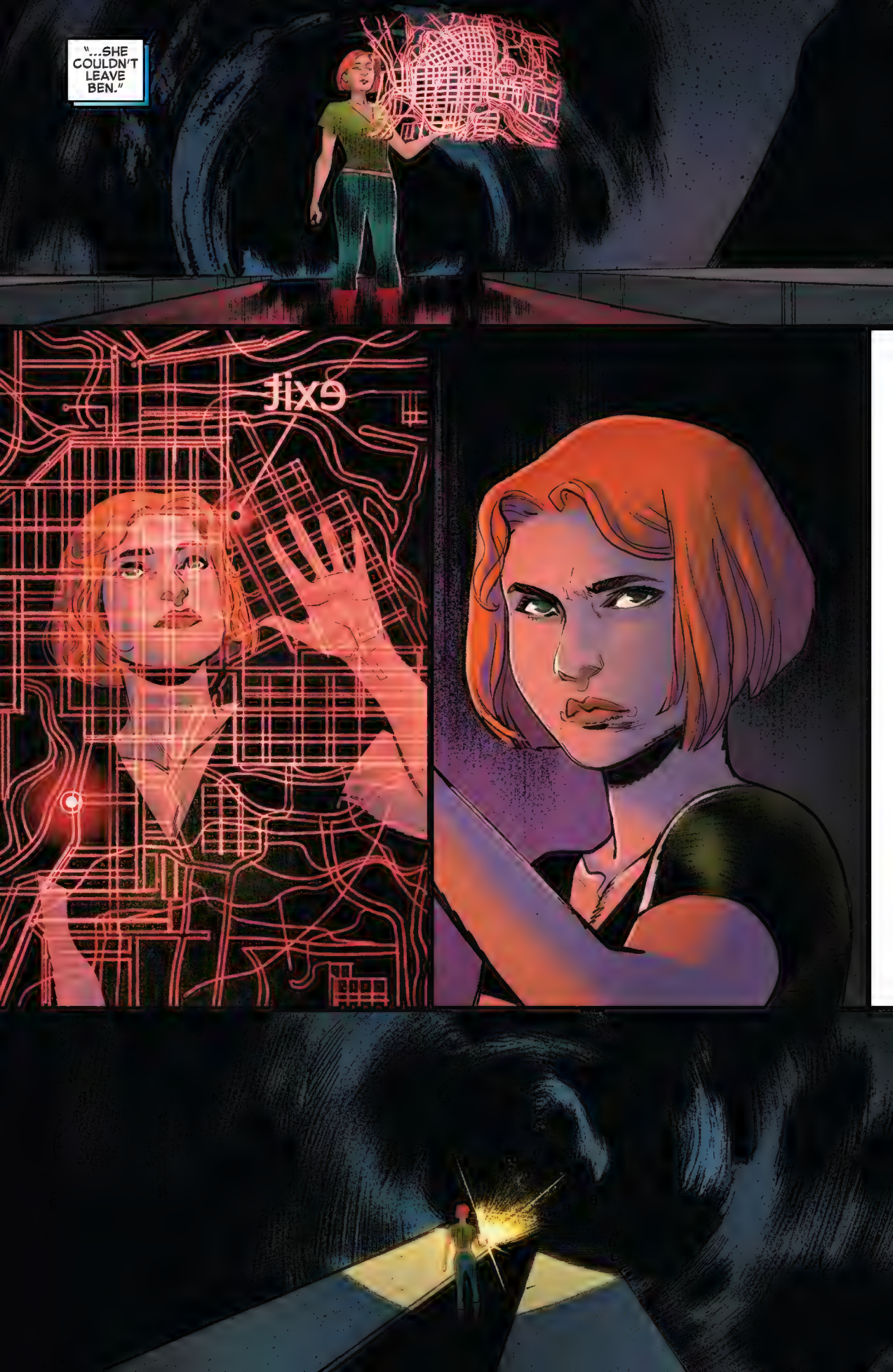

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT *DID* THAT. WE CAN STILL GET YOU HELP!
WHY WOULD I EXPECT ANYONE TO HELP ME?
BEN! JUMP!
GOODBYE, PETER.
NO!
IT'S OKAY, PETER.
I'M ALREADY GONE.

KA
BOOM
HUNNGH...
HEY!
THUMP
THIS WAY! COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GO NOW!
BOOM!
THIS WHOLE THING IS COLLAPSING!
NO...
IT ALREADY HAS...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
BOOM
WHOA!
D-DID THAT BUILDING JUST GET SHORTER?

DAYS.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE REALLY WORKED YOU OVER, MR. PARKER...
...WISH THE MUGGER KNEW YOU'D JUST GOTTEN OUT OF A COMA AND, ACCORDING TO OUR BILLING DEPARTMENT, HAVE NO MONEY.
NOT THAT I TAKE MUCH OF WHAT YOU TELL ME AT FACE VALUE.
ARE YOU CALLING MY NEPHEW A LIAR, DR. BURDICK?
NO, MA'AM. I WOULD NOT DO THAT IN FRONT OF YOU...
...WITHOUT A HEAD START.
BUT I AM CALLING THESE WOUNDS SUPERFICIAL. AND WITH HIS RECOVERY FROM RADIATION POISONING...
...YOU CAN TAKE HIM HOME.
NOT BEFORE I SPEAK TO THIS BILLING DEPARTMENT OF YOURS. SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN A BIT LIPPY ABOUT MY PETER.
OH BOY...
PETER...

HE WAS SCARED, MJ.
HE JUST NEEDED HELP!
I KNOW, SWEETIE...
I KNOW...
THANK YOU FOR GOING BACK, MARCUS. THANK GOD YOU FOUND HIM.
IT WAS JANINE. SHE SENT ME AFTER PETER. AND SHE...

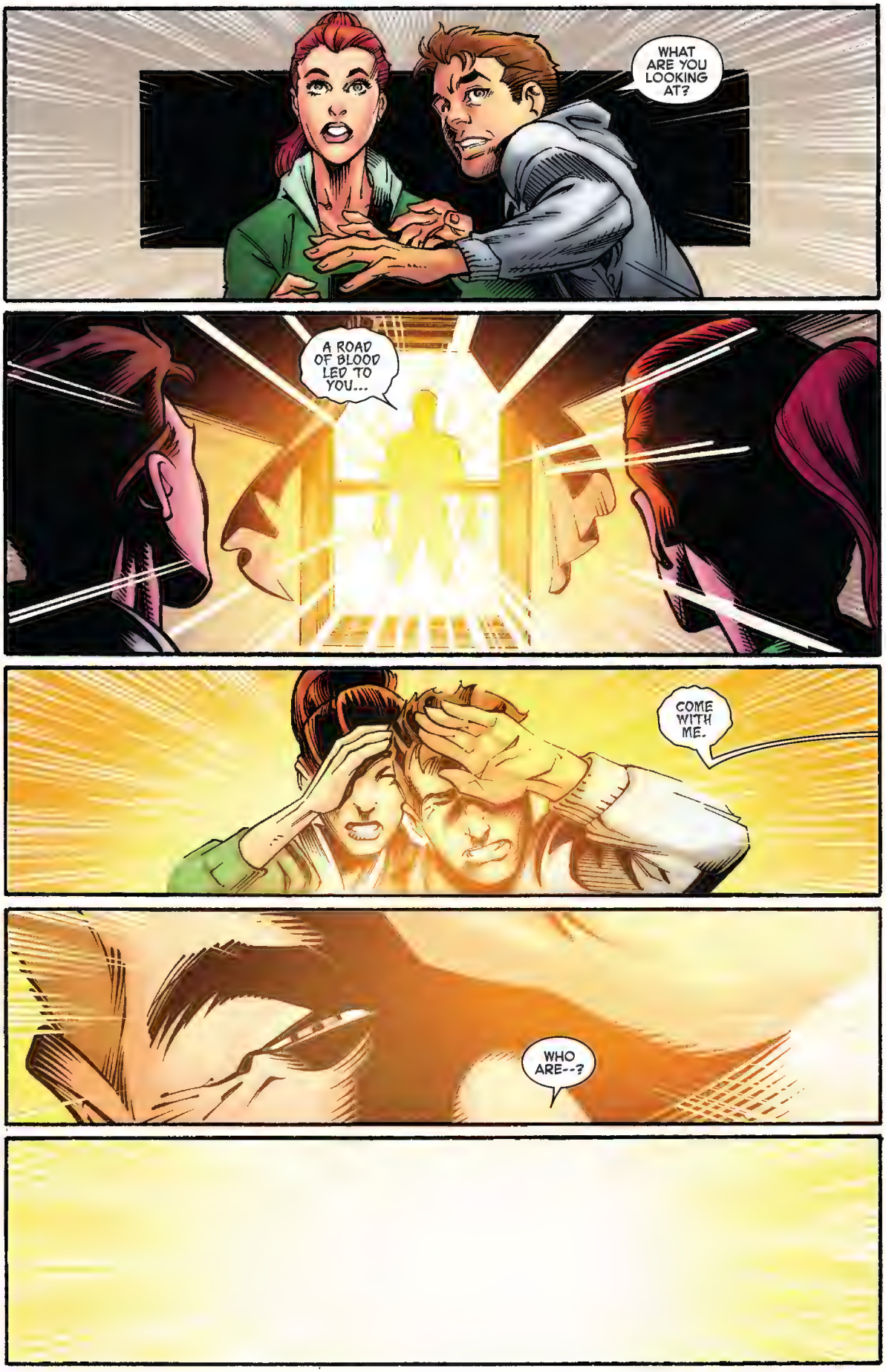

"...SHE COULDN'T LEAVE BEN."
Exit

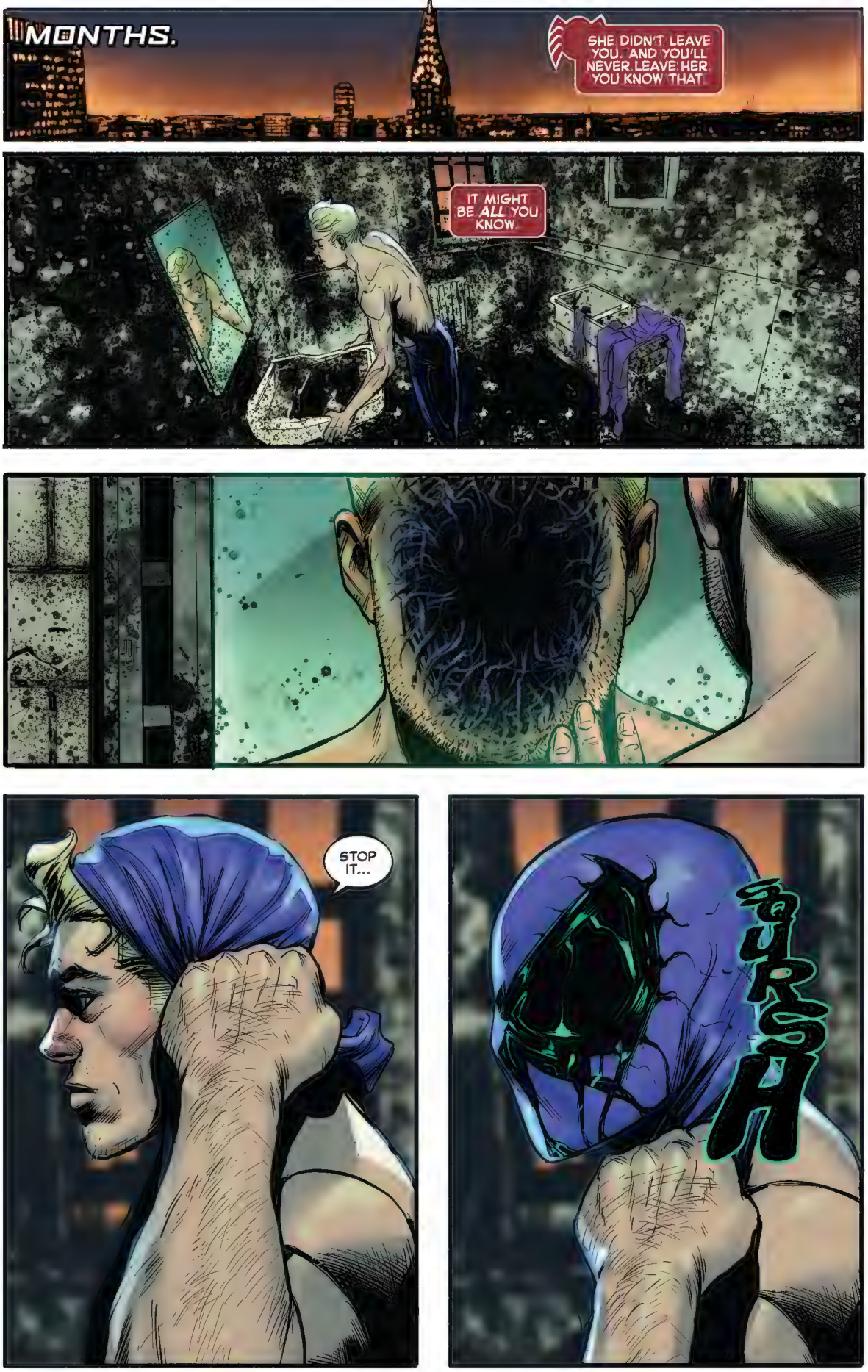
BEN?
BEN!
EXPUNGING PSYCHO-REACTIVE GOO.

SHUFFLE
HUH?
HNNNNNN--
OH, BEN...

WEEKS.
THANKS FOR THAT.
WE'LL BUMP THE WALKS UP TO THREE MILES STARTING MONDAY. THINK YOUR BODY CAN TAKE IT?
UH, YEAH. THAT'S THE PLAN.
HAVE YOU BEEN TALKING TO NURSE LOIS?
YES, OF COURSE.
SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP YOU HONEST.
HA. YOU'RE THE BEST, MJ. EVEN WHEN YOU'RE VIOLATING THE SACRED TRUST BETWEEN PATIENT AND NURSE.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT I'M SURE YOU KNOW ABOUT MY ORTHOPEDIC BED AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MY RECOVERY.
NO, I MEAN FOR GOOD.

LIKE, MOVE IN.
OH, MJ. I...
OF COURSE I *WANT* THAT, BUT...
I'M A *MESS* RIGHT NOW.
YOU WANT ME TO WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE NOT A MESS?
WHEN ARE YOU NOT A MESS?
HEY. THERE WAS THAT...ONE TIME.
HA HA HA. OKAY, YOU'VE GOT ME.
YEAH. LET'S...LET'S DO IT.
LET'S...
MJ?


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
A ROAD OF BLOOD LED TO YOU...
COME WITH ME.
WHO ARE--?


MONTHS.
SHE DIDN'T LEAVE YOU. AND YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE HER. YOU KNOW THAT.
IT MIGHT BE ALL YOU KNOW.
STOP IT...
SURSH

NO...
STOP...
STOP!
CRA
SH!
BEN?
NO. BEN IS GONE.
AND WHERE YOU WERE...

...THERE IS ONLY A CHASM.

#75 VARIANT BY
ALEX OGLE

BEYOND CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION

#75 VARIANT BY
INHYUK LEE

#75 VARIANT BY
RON FRENZ, BRETT BREEDING & NOLAN WOODARD

BEYOND CORPORATION

#75 VARIANT BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG

#75 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
IBAN COELLO & **EDGAR DELGADO**

BEYOND CORPORATION

#75 VARIANT BY
RON LIM & **ISRAEL SILVA**

#75 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY
STEVE DITKO & **MORRY HOLLOWELL**

#75 MARVEL MASTERPIECES VARIANT BY
JOE JUSKO

#76 MARVEL MASTERPIECES VARIANT BY
JOE JUSKO

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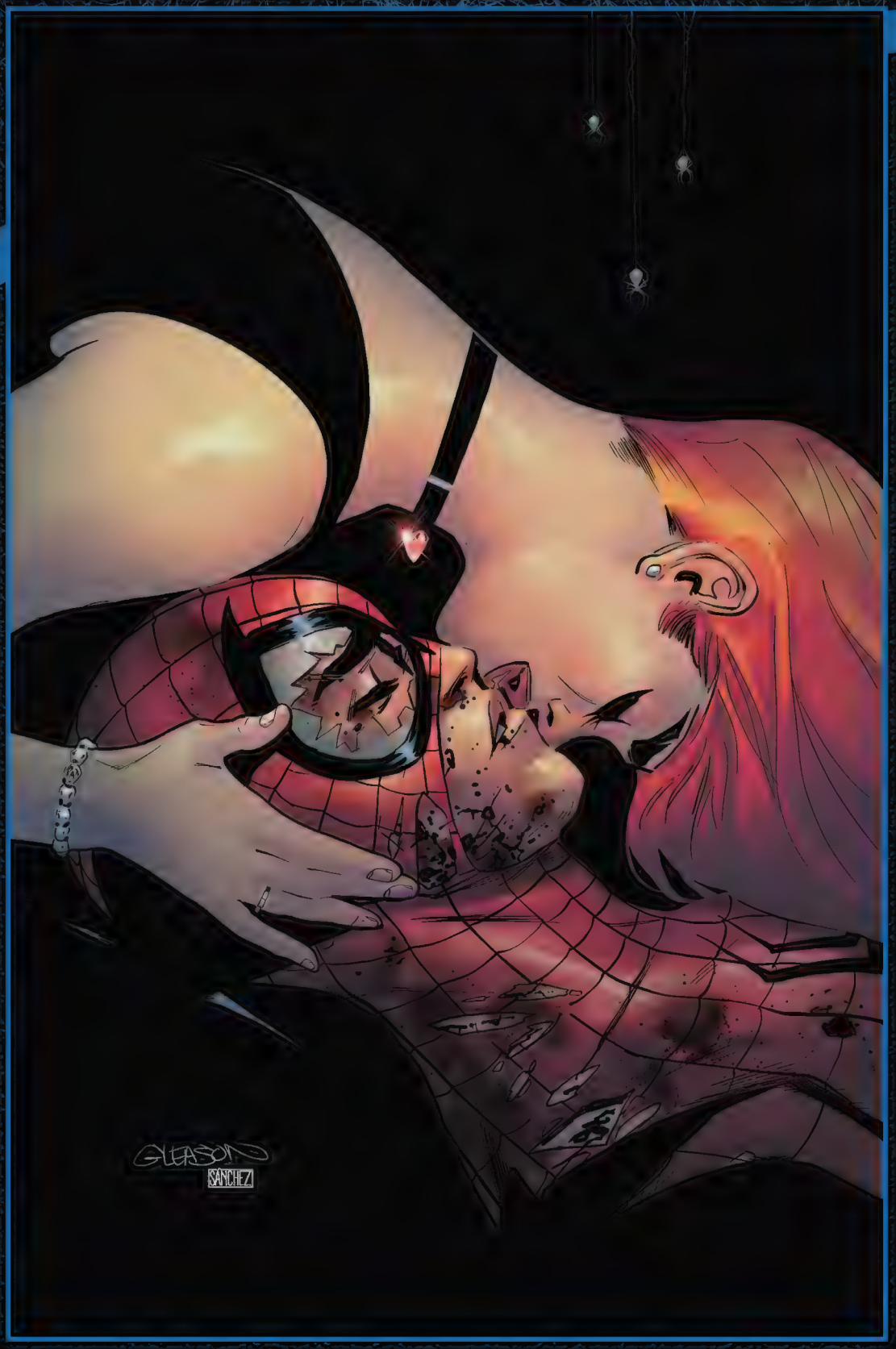
#76 VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON & ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ



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DAVID AJA

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#77 MARVEL MASTERPIECES VARIANT BY
JOE JUSKO

#78 MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN 10TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT BY
DECLAN SHALVEY

#78 DEADPOOL 30TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT BY
ROB LIEFELD

#78.BEY VARIANT BY
PEACH MOMOKO

#79 VARIANT BY
SERGIO DÁVILA, SEAN PARSONS & MORRY HOLLOWELL

#79 VARIANT BY
DAN JURGENS, BRETT BREEDING & ALEX SINCLAIR

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*79 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
R.B. SILVA & **ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ**

#81 VARIANT BY
ARIST DEYN

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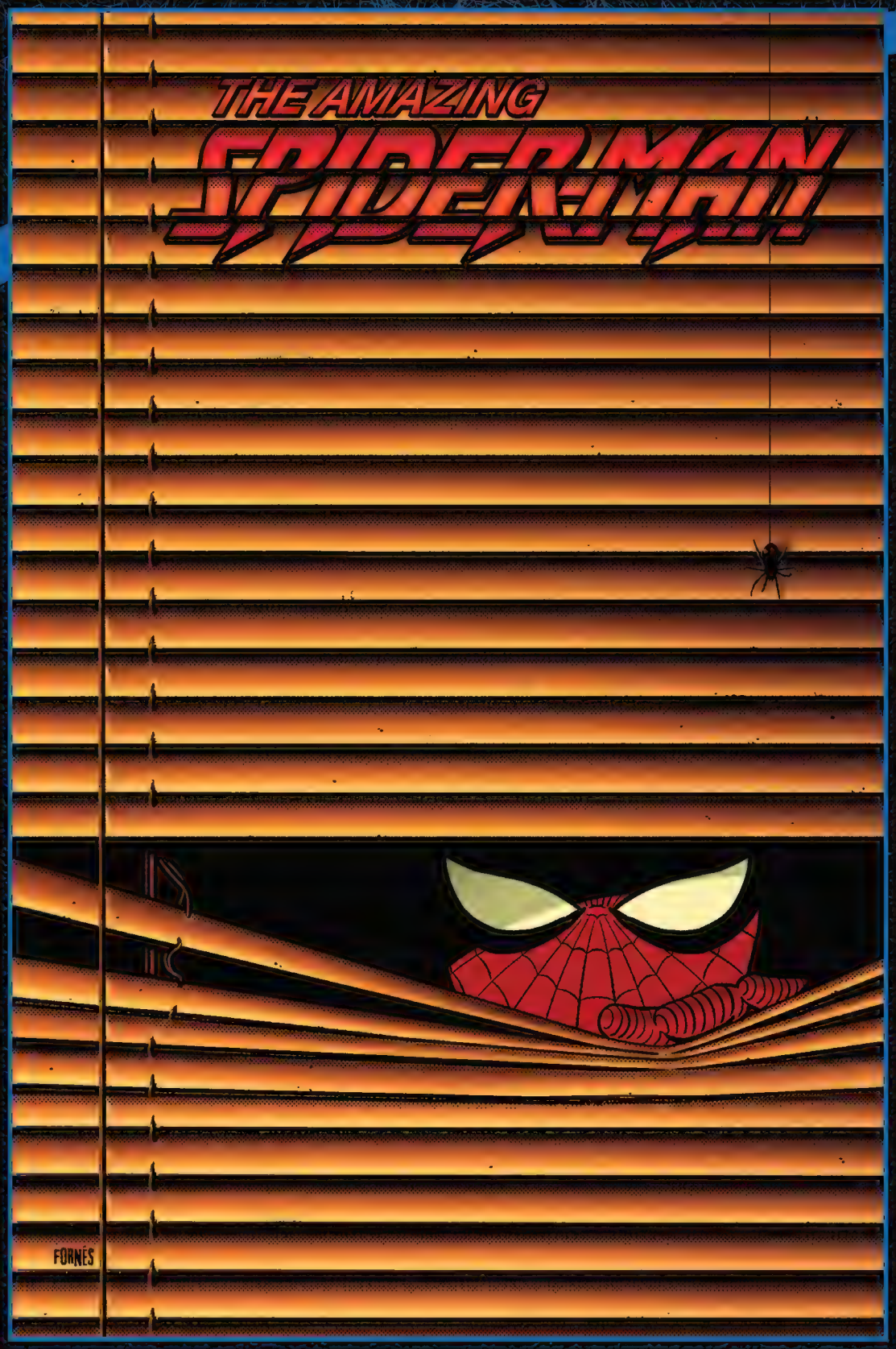
#82 VARIANT BY
JORGE FORNÉS



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JOSHUA "SWAY" SWABY

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#83 VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON

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#85 CLASSIC HOMAGE VARIANT BY
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#86 CLASSIC HOMAGE VARIANT BY
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#87 VARIANT BY
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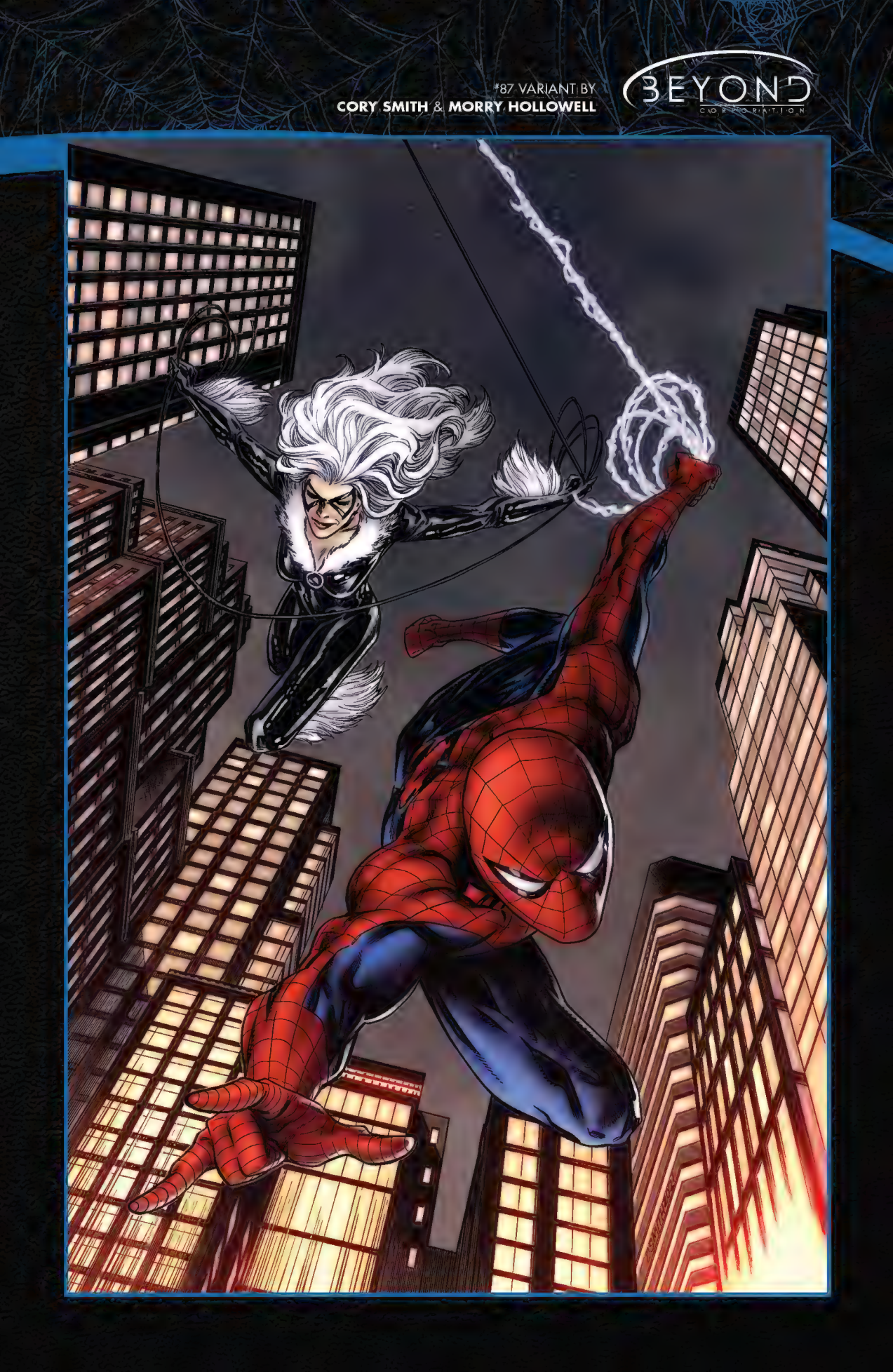

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#88 X-GWEN VARIANT BY
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#88 DESIGN VARIANT BY
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#88 2ND PRINTING VARIANT BY
CARLOS GOMEZ

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#88.BEY VARIANT BY
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HUMBERTO RAMOS & EDGAR DELGADO

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NABETSE ZITRO & MORRY HOLLOWELL

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MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND VARIANT BY
PHIL JIMENEZ & EDGAR DELGADO

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND VARIANT BY
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#90 VARIANT BY
ROGÊ ANTÔNIO & MORRY HOLLOWELL

#91 CARNAGE FOREVER VARIANT BY
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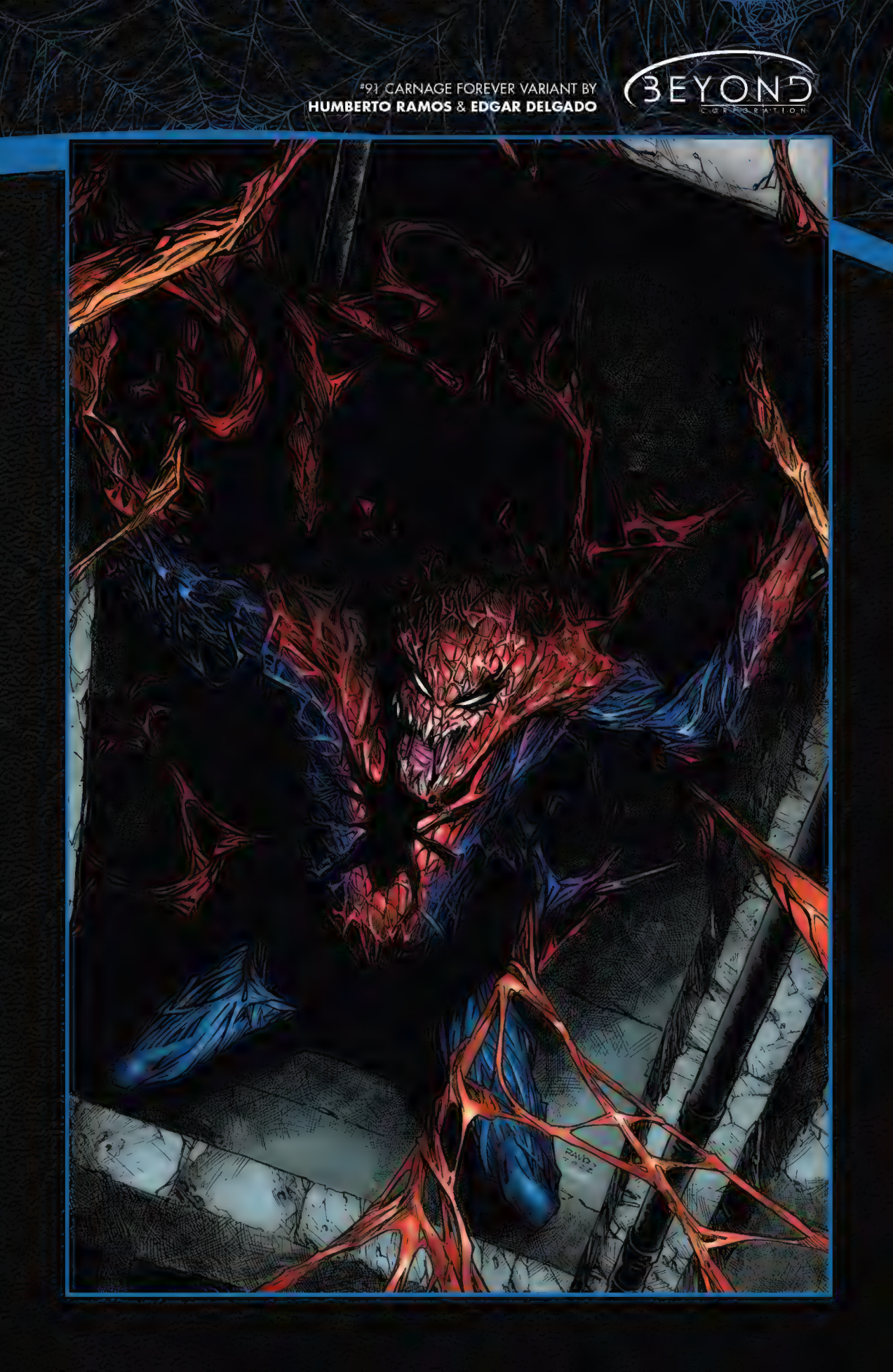

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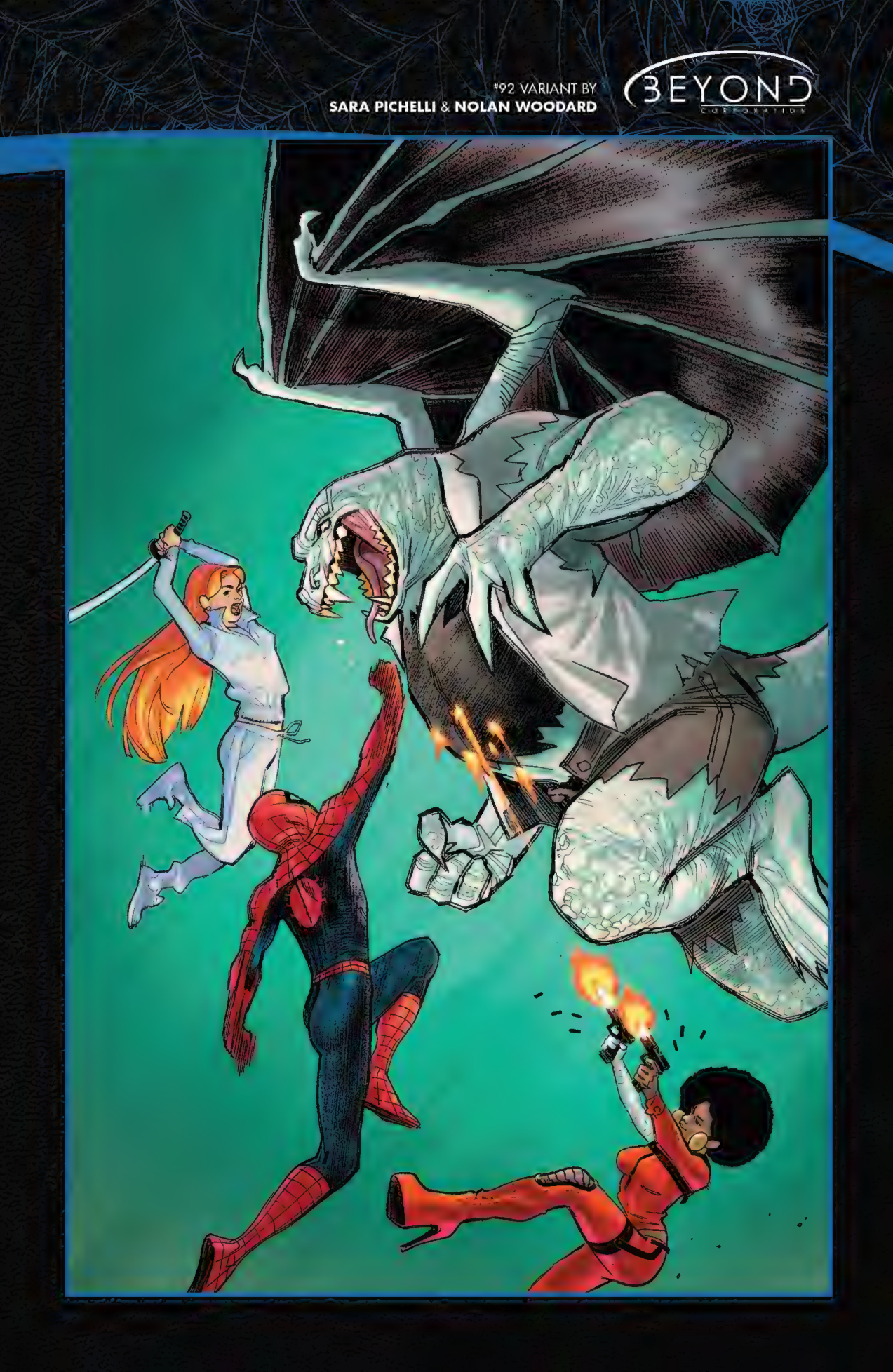

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#92 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
PEACH MOMOKO

#93 WEBHEAD VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON

BEYOND
CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION

#93 VARIANT BY
GERARDO SANDOVAL & **CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**

#93 VARIANT BY
MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & BRIAN REBER

#92.BEY VARIANT BY
MARK BAGLEY & **NEERAJ MENON**

#92.BEY VARIANT BY
CHRIS BRUNNER & **RICO RENZI**

BEN REILLY IS BACK
IN THE REDS-AND-BLUES!

THE BEYOND CORPORATION, owner of the **SPIDER-MAN TRADEMARK**, has installed everyone's favorite clone as its official web-slinger — with a new suit and some nifty upgrades! But where does that leave **PETER PARKER**? Is the neighborhood big enough for both of them, or will things turn decidedly unfriendly? Featuring the **BLACK CAT**, **MARY JANE WATSON**, **MILES MORALES**, **MORBIUS**, **KRAVEN**, **DOCTOR OCTOPUS** and the shocking debut of **QUEEN GOBLIN**!

Collecting *Amazing Spider-Man (2018) #75-93*, *#78.BEY*, *#80.BEY*, *#88.BEY*, *#92.BEY*; *Mary Jane & Black Cat: Beyond*; and material from *Amazing Spider-Man (2018) #74* and *Free Comic Book Day 2021: Spider-Man/Venom* — by Zeb Wells, Kelly Thompson, Jed MacKay, Cody Ziglar, Saladin Ahmed, Patrick Gleason, Geoffrey Thorne, Travel Foreman, Ivan Fiorelli, Sara Pichelli, Jim Towe, Eleonora Carlini, Michael Dowling, Carlos Gómez, Paco Medina, Jorge Fornés, Jan Bazaldua, Mark Bagley, Fran Galán, Zé Carlos, Bruno Oliveira, Luigi Zagaria, Carlos Villa, Wayne Faucher, Andrew Hennessy, Victor Olazaba, Roberto Poggi, Walden Wong, John Dell, Andy Owens, Tim Townsend, Marcio Menyz, Jim Campbell, Edgar Delgado, Nolan Woodard, Rachelle Rosenberg, Federico Blee, Jesus Aburtov, Erick Arciniega, Bryan Valenza, Nathan Fairbairn, Morry Hollowell, Espen Grundetjern, Brian Reber, Jim Charalampidis, Carlos Lopez and Alejandro Sánchez.

MARVEL

Jack.T.Ripper

BLOODY MARVELOUS!